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SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME II

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12

Copper Center, Alaska

13

March 21, 2001

14

8:00 o'clock a.m.

15

16

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

19 Ralph Lohse, Chairman

20 Gilbert Dementi, Sr.

21 Fred H. Elvsaas

22 Fred John, Jr.

23 Kenneth Vlasoff

24

25

26 Coordinator: Ann Wilkinson

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this spring meeting of the Southcentral Regional Subsistence Advisory Regional Council back in session. And we're on the proposals and, in fact, we're almost finished with proposals. And when we finish the proposals, if the coffee machine is done we'll take a break and get a cup of coffee. I notice that there's some fry bread back there and a can back there for donations so you can have some fry bread with your coffee.

12

And with that we're going to go onto Proposal 41. And Proposal 41 takes place in Unit 12 which is out of our unit. George, I see you're ready to go. What's the consensus of the rest of the Council, is this something that we need to take action on or is this -- I'll let George introduce to us, maybe he could explain whether we need to take action or whether we should leave this up to Eastern Interior.

21

MR. SHERROD: Mentasta Lake has C&T for moose in the portion of Unit 12 that this proposal addresses and that's why it's before you this morning.

25

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So Mentasta Lake has -- but it's in Eastern Interior's area?

28

MR. SHERROD: Correct.

30

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What is the comments by the rest of the Council, should we take this one up or should we -- okay, we will listen to it and we will take it up.

35

MR. SHERROD: Okay. Proposal 41 was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional Council and requests that the moose season in a portion of 12 be modified to eliminate the antler restrictions and reduce the total number of harvest days by 13 percent. This proposal is in response to changes made by the Alaska Board of Game in March of 2000.

43

On Pages 194 and 195 are two different maps. Both State and Federal regulations divide the area into three distinct hunting areas, however, the hunt areas are not the same. The area addressed in this proposal, if you look at the second map -- no, excuse me, the first map, the Federal subsistence hunt area is basically that area listed as hunt area one and it's north of the Pickerel Lake

50

1 Winter Trial and includes the Tetlin National Wildlife
2 Refuge. The proposal does not address that area south or
3 that area to the west in the lower end of Unit 12. And of
4 course, the area to the northwest of Unit 12 has no Federal
5 public lands and this proposal does not address that area.
6

7 In their March meeting, the Board of Game
8 reduced the antler restriction or removed the spike-fork
9 antler season for the entirety of Unit 12. This proposal
10 would reduce the spike-for antler season in the portion of
11 Unit 12 that I just described above. As I said, the reason
12 that this proposal is before you is that in that portion of
13 the area, individuals from Mentasta Lake as well as Unit
14 12, Dot Lake and Healey Lake have a positive customary and
15 traditional use determination for moose. This area is
16 under considerable hunting pressure. The Board of Game has
17 changed, this is the State Board of Game, has changed the
18 Unit 12 moose hunting regulations six times from 1989 so
19 it's constantly under flux. In the past few years the
20 Federal program has also adjusted the hunting regulations
21 in this area to basically adopt the more liberal seasons
22 that the State has put into place. However, at this point
23 in time due to the status of the resource, the State saw it
24 necessary to reduce the harvest, particularly the harvest
25 of the younger bull segment of the population which is
26 under considerable stress. Since 1997, the calf and
27 yearling bull recruitment has declined. In the Northway
28 Flats area, which was a large area within the area
29 addressed by this Federal proposal, moose densities are as
30 low as .03 moose per square mile so there are not a lot of
31 moose in the area.
32

33 The current management objectives for Unit
34 12 are to maintain a minimal bull/cow ratio of 40 to 100
35 east of the Nabesna River and a minimum of 20 bulls per 100
36 in the remainder of the unit. The remainder of the unit
37 being the portion addressed in this proposal. In those
38 areas that are easily accessible at this point in time by
39 road systems and so on for hunters, the cow/bull ratio is
40 slightly above the target minimum of 20 bulls per 100 cows.
41

42 Since the inception of the spike-fork
43 season in 1995 and this is based on State records for the
44 entire unit, only four to five animals have been taken
45 during this specific season. Important in this context is
46 no animals have been taken on Federal lands so even though
47 in 1996, I believe it was, we implemented a spike-fork
48 early season, no subsistence hunter has reported taking an
49 animal during this season.
50

1 The effects of the proposal, the
2 elimination of the spike-fork four day season or four day
3 reduction in the any bull season will provide some relief
4 for the small bull component of the population which is
5 stable to declining. However, the relief to the spike-fork
6 component population will be minimal as only four to five
7 animals are taken during the year under this season.

8
9 The preliminary conclusion is to support
10 the proposal and adopt the new season as highlighted there
11 on the bottom of page, the shaded in area. The
12 justification for adopting this is the moose population in
13 the portion of Unit 12 addressed in this proposal is
14 experiencing expanding hunting pressure. Recent actions by
15 the Board of Game have reduced hunting opportunities for
16 non-Federally qualified hunters in all of Unit 12 and
17 actually more restrictions than are proposed in this
18 proposal. The Board of Game action in conjunction with
19 adopting this proposal should have a positive effect on
20 Unit 12 moose population. While there may be short-term
21 reductions in moose harvest, Federally qualified moose
22 hunters should benefit from the conservation of a healthy
23 moose population in the long-term.

24
25 That's the end of the analysis.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: George, could we go back
28 to the maps again?

29
30 MR. SHERROD: Certainly.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Did you say that
33 the State changed the season in all of Unit 12?

34
35 MR. SHERROD: All of Unit 12.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But the portion that we're
38 dealing with here is not the Wrangell-St. Elias National
39 Preserve but is the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge?

40
41 MR. SHERROD: Correct. We're not -- this
42 proposal does not request a change in the regulations for
43 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve,
44 including that little section which is over by Nabesna, a
45 little to the west of Nabesna, the three Federal hunt
46 areas. Only one of the three Federal hunt areas is
47 affected, and that's the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it's the Tetlin
50 National Wildlife Refuge and that portion of the Preserve

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1 north of the Winter Trail.

2

3 MR. SHERROD: Okay. And then that little
4 chunk of trail, that little chunk that's in the northeast
5 corner right there, above the Pickerel Lake Winter Trail?

6

7 MR. SHERROD: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about those other
10 squares of land that are the same color as Tetlin National
11 Wildlife Refuge that are sprinkled around Northway up
12 there, are they.....

13

14 MR. SHERROD: Those are affected.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Those are affected.

17

18 MR. SHERROD: With the assumption of fish,
19 we now effectively manage for game as well, the areas
20 within the outer perimeters of the conservation unit. So
21 those little pieces, including the checked pieces that are
22 basically private lands are affected by Federal management.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that land that's got
25 the cross-hatch that says Federal Hunt Area No. 1, is that
26 part of it, too?

27

28 MR. SHERROD: That's it. Federal Hunt Area
29 No. 1 is the area.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so it includes that
32 plus all of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge land?

33

34 MR. SHERROD: Right.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And it goes all --
37 I can see now -- now that I can see, I can see that --
38 the.....

39

40 MR. SHERROD: These maps are hard to see, I
41 know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:cross-hatching does
44 go down to the Pickerel Lake Winter Trail so, okay. And it
45 looks almost -- on the map that I've got, that that part of
46 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge that's west of the Pickerel
47 Lake Winter Trail is left out, like that line comes down
48 through the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. The entire
49 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in it?

50

1 MR. SHERROD: It should be -- all of the
2 Refuge.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, all of it's in it.

5
6 MR. SHERROD:is within the -- and I
7 was just corrected that we do not have management over the
8 private lands within the outer perimeter.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: For wildlife, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What?

15
16 MR. JENNINGS: It's only within the
17 exterior boundaries of the conservation unit for fisheries
18 management.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

21
22 MR. JENNINGS: For the wildlife program,
23 the wildlife program is limited to Federal lands only, so
24 there's that distinction.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. But basically what
27 we're looking at then is that chunk of land that's got
28 Federal Hunt Area No. 1 lines on it?

29
30 MR. SHERROD: That's it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Over on that corner over
33 there. Could you summarize again what the changes would be
34 with this proposal?

35
36 MR. SHERROD: Okay. If you look on Page
37 197.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

40
41 MR. SHERROD: If you look it says Unit 12,
42 that portion within the Tetlin Refuge.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. SHERROD: That basically is the same as
47 the highlighted area in the end except that we've removed
48 the spike-fork antler requirement, that that was the only
49 animal that could be taken August 15th to the 28th. And we
50 have pushed the season back approximately nine days. So if

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1 you look at the first season instead of being 15 to 28,
2 which was the spike-fork season we now start on the 24th to
3 go to 28 and it's any bull. We've pushed the September
4 season back seven days and added two days at the end and
5 this is to match, basically the action that the State did
6 and we still have the November 20 to November 30 season
7 which is a season the State does not.

8
9 The easy way to compare where we're at or
10 what we're proposing to be at and where the State is at, is
11 if you look at the bottom of Page 196, that is the new
12 State regulation and the top hunt area is -- no, it's a
13 second hunt area that basically -- no, excuse me, I'll get
14 this, it's really confusing. It's the last area, Unit 12
15 remainder is the State area that corresponds with the first
16 area in the Federal season. So their season now is August
17 24th to 28, the same as our first season, September 8th to
18 17th, the same as the second season and then they lack the
19 November season.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And both of those are one
22 bull?

23
24 MR. SHERROD: Yes. Where previously the
25 first season was spike-fork only.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

28
29 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

32
33 MR. ELVSAAS: About how many hunters are
34 out there during that early hunt?

35
36 MR. SHERROD: I'm not sure how many hunters
37 were out there in the early hunt. In '96 for all of Unit
38 12, there was 124 hunters and 24 percent were successful.
39 In -- let's see if I can find, in '98, there were 493
40 hunters reported taking moose in Unit 12 and that summary
41 is found at the bottom of Page 199. There were
42 approximately 1,500 moose taken -- reported taken between
43 '83 and '89 of those 648, or 42 percent were taken by
44 hunters with positive customary and traditional use
45 determinations for Unit 12.

46
47 There is a -- with the reduction in moose
48 populations in Unit 13, more restrictive State seasons, we
49 are seeing some displacement of moose hunters from
50 Southcentral into that portion of Unit 12.

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1 MR. ELVSAAS: We're proposing to cut how
2 many days off that first season, six days?

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nine.

5
6 MR. ELVSAAS: Nine?

7
8 MR. SHERROD: Overall, we're going to
9 eliminate four days off of the entire hunting period
10 between the three seasons, which will have -- which could
11 potentially have some impact on subsistence users. The
12 elimination of the spike-fork only provision though will
13 afford them some greater opportunity in the earlier
14 portions of the hunt and given that there are no reported
15 spike-fork animals ever taken by subsistence hunters, it
16 shouldn't have -- it should have a positive aspect in that
17 component, removing the antler restriction letting them
18 take any animal, but we are shortening the season by four
19 days.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: George.

22
23 MR. SHERROD: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: My math doesn't say four
26 days. I'm trying to figure that out. Because we lose nine
27 days on the first one and seven days on the second one.

28
29 MR. SHERROD: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That comes out to 16.

32
33 MR. SHERROD: Well you add two days onto
34 the second one.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You add two days on?

37
38 MR. SHERROD: Well, no, you add it on the
39 end, see it's September 17th as opposed to the 15th.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. I mean the first
42 -- okay, you're.....

43
44 MR. SHERROD: Well, you're right it's more
45 than nine days. We had two days there.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I mean if you take
48 away seven and you add two, you lose five.

49
50 MR. SHERROD: Right.

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I come up with 14.

2
3 MR. SHERROD: 14.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you just missed the
6 one.

7
8 MR. SHERROD: That's right, there's a one
9 missing there, it's 14.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. So basically two
12 weeks?

13
14 MR. SHERROD: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I see one positive
17 thing by moving it closer to September 20th you get a
18 better chance to get moving moose. I think the rut might
19 start a little earlier up there anyhow.

20
21 Has the Eastern Interior made
22 recommendations on this one yet?

23
24 MR. SHERROD: Yes, this is their proposal.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is their proposal?

27
28 MR. SHERROD: And they moved to support it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay. And Staff
31 analysis is to support it also, right?

32
33 MR. SHERROD: That's correct.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that do we have
36 any ADF&G comments?

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. The ADF&G said that
39 they support the adoption of this proposal because it would
40 align State and Federal moose seasons in the portion of
41 Unit 12 and reduce confusion among hunters.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do we have any
44 written comments?

45
46 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. The Wrangell-St.
47 Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
48 supports this proposal based on conservation concerns.

49
50 The Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game

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1 Advisory Committee supports Proposal 41 with an amendment
2 as follows: They recommend, amend to include Federal lands
3 in 20(E), south of the Yukon-Charlie Preserve. The
4 Committee states that if this change is not made, there
5 will be lands with different seasons and it will be a
6 nightmare for enforcement.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's all of the
9 written comments?

10
11 MS. WILKINSON: And that's the end of the
12 comments, right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And we have no
15 public oral comments, slips turned in for this one. So now
16 it's up to the Council. Do we wish to put a motion on the
17 table to adopt this, oppose it, support Eastern Interior,
18 what?

19
20 MR. JOHN: I make a motion that we support
21 the Eastern Interior Regional Council.

22
23 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
26 seconded that we support Eastern Interior in this proposal.
27 Any discussion. It's interesting that Eastern Interior has
28 put forth a motion that takes two weeks off of their season
29 so they must think it's justified. So with that, if
30 there's no further discussion.....

31
32 MR. DEMENTI: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been called
35 for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
40 saying nay.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Okay,
45 with that, the coffee machine quit perking.

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: The light's not on.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The light's not on yet?
50 Oh, it's got to be done if it quit making noise, maybe the

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1 light doesn't come on.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That finishes our wildlife
6 proposals that we had before us. At this point in time we
7 would like to open the floor to proposals to change Federal
8 Subsistence Regulations for fisheries if anybody has any
9 that they would like to bring forward.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don't everybody speak at
14 once. This is open floor, right?

15

16 MS. WILKINSON: Eric wants to talk on this
17 now.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, you want to talk on
20 this right now?

21

22 MR. VEACH: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, that sounds good,
25 okay. Maybe by the time you're done the coffee will be
26 ready.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. VEACH: I'm going to do my best to be
31 brief. Mr. Chairman, Eric Veach, Wrangell-St. Elias
32 National Park. I handed out a packet this morning that has
33 eight proposals that the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC and
34 National Park staff intend to submit to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board for fishery regulations and these are
36 just drafts at this point. There's no need for you to take
37 any action on them and I just wanted to present them as
38 kind of a heads-up but also if the Council would like to
39 co-sponsor any of these, we haven't sent them in yet so
40 there's still an opportunity to do that. And if you have
41 feedback on them, you have real serious concerns with them,
42 there's still time, I think, for the SRC to maybe convene
43 via conference call or something and consider that input.

44

45 So with that, I'll just start with our
46 first proposal. This one's kind of just a housekeeping one
47 tied to the definition of rainbow trout and steelhead.
48 Right now both rainbow trout and steelhead are used in the
49 regulations and they're not always used simultaneously but
50 the species is the same. They're both one species and it's

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1 really just referring to the two different life histories,
2 I believe that the species exhibit -- where rainbow trout
3 tend to not go to the ocean versus steelhead are the
4 anadgermous form of rainbow trout. So what we're proposing
5 is that within the regulations, rainbow -- instead of using
6 rainbow or steelhead trout, we would use rainbow/steelhead
7 trout in all references to the species.

8
9 And what this would also do is there's also
10 references to freshwater fish which may or may not include
11 the resident life form of rainbow trout, and so this would
12 clear that up as well so that when you refer to rainbow or
13 steelhead trout, you would list that as rainbow or
14 steelhead trout.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Eric, let me ask
17 you some questions on this

18
19 MR. VEACH: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In other words, any place
22 that the regulations refer to rainbows, it's going to be
23 rainbow/steelhead and any place that's going to be
24 referring to steelhead it will be rainbow/steelhead?

25
26 MR. VEACH: Correct.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And yet in a way we manage
29 the two of them differently because of stocking programs
30 and things like that for, you know, land-lock lakes that we
31 stock rainbow trout in.

32
33 MR. VEACH: That's correct.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you know, you can't
36 have -- you wouldn't want to apply the same bag limits and
37 seasons to steelhead as you would apply to rainbows that
38 are in part of the stocking program. Let's say the lakes
39 that they stock at Chitina, for example.....

40
41 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:where they have their
44 stock as a put and take fish, they're basically fairly
45 liberal bag limits, no size restrictions and things like
46 that. So if you make it generic, rainbow/steelhead
47 classification, then how would you differentiate in
48 regulations the fact that steelhead need to be either
49 released or only one over so many inches kept and rainbow
50 trout can have a 10 a day bag limit, no size limit?

1 MR. VEACH: I think the way that you would
2 want to deal with that would be specific to those waters so
3 you would still set a regulation for the species specific
4 to that water. But the problem is with the enforcement,
5 you know, if you catch a fish that appears to be a
6 steelhead or a rainbow trout, let's say 20 inches in a
7 fishwheel, it's really difficult to tell what that is
8 without taking a scale sample and looking under a
9 microscope to see if that fish has spent any time in
10 saltwater. And so I would think, you know, like in a case,
11 say if you're dealing with the Copper River you would want
12 to still set a regulation specific for that water and that
13 regulation might be different than say.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Set regulations for bodies
16 of water and basically it doesn't matter whether they're
17 rainbow or steelhead, you can't use that for an excuse to
18 have one or the other?

19
20 MR. VEACH: Yeah, right.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

23
24 MR. VEACH: Any other questions on Proposal
25 1?

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

28
29 MR. VEACH: Then I'll roll into Proposal 2.
30 This one that's actually just submitted by Park Service
31 staff. I didn't get a chance to run this one in front of
32 the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. Essentially the regulations
33 right now prohibit the use of live non-indigenous fish for
34 bait and non-indigenous isn't really defined, non-
35 indigenous to me would mean non-Native. So does that mean
36 non-Native to, say a particular lake that you're fishing
37 in, a particular water shed in the state, maybe a
38 particular region within the state, it's not defined. And
39 I guess our feeling is there may be a few places in the
40 state, this would be a statewide regulation, and there may
41 be a few places in the state where live fish are used as
42 bait and in those cases it would make sense to make an
43 exception. But in general, it might make more sense to
44 just prohibit the use of live fish for bait and that's
45 something that you might be much more familiar with than I
46 am, but I guess I'm not familiar with a widespread use of
47 actually live fish for bait, now, this would be different
48 from dead fish used for bait.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. I don't think it's

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1 a widespread thing but I just discussed it with somebody
2 last night, of all the subjects to come up, you know. I
3 know that -- of course, that wouldn't apply to saltwater?

4
5 MR. VEACH: Right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There isn't much use of
8 live bait in Alaska. It'd probably be a good thing to stop
9 it before it becomes widespread simply because it is a way
10 to transfer diseases to genetic fish stocks from one place
11 to the other. We've already got the problem with Northern
12 Pike being released into the Susitna/Kenai area.

13
14 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They probably weren't
17 released as bait fish. I do know a few people that do use
18 live bait for lake trout.

19
20 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they are using fish
23 that are local to the area but whether -- but since the
24 fish didn't come out of that lake particularly they could
25 have different genetic make up and everything else.

26
27 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I could support this one
30 as much as some people that I just talked to would say, oh,
31 no, we were just thinking of doing that, you know, I could
32 see where the problem with that could come. I don't think
33 it's -- I don't think, and I definitely don't think it's
34 part of the practices of the Native people in the state of
35 Alaska to use live bait, but with their proversion to even
36 catch and release, the idea of putting a live fish on a
37 hook and putting it down there probably isn't something
38 that you've ever heard of anybody doing, have you, Fred,
39 using live fish for bait?

40
41 MR. ELVSAAS: Uh-huh.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: We don't call it bait.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but when you're
50 fishing out on the ocean and, you know, you catch a fish

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1 that big, it's bait for fish.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: Poor little trout.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Now, that would --
8 that basically wouldn't apply in ocean waters, would that?

9

10 MR. VEACH: Right. That was definitely our
11 intent, we may need to kind of read the regulations and
12 make sure -- but, yeah, that's my understanding. That was
13 definitely our intent that it wouldn't apply in saltwater.

14

15 Well, with that I'll move into our third
16 proposal. This one, I think, is kind of a no-brainer, it's
17 one that's kind of just come up in discussions before. The
18 current regulations for the Copper River, if you catch a
19 steelhead in a dipnet, that's considered an incidental
20 catch in a net fishery and so you can keep a steelhead
21 that's caught in a dipnet even though, typically if you
22 release that fish it would be live and healthy and could
23 continue upstream to spawn. But if you catch a steelhead
24 in a fishwheel, that's not legal. And so even if you find
25 the steelhead dead in the fishwheel, you're required to
26 toss the dead fish back over the side into the river.

27

28 And what our proposal would be would be to
29 reverse that. That if you catch a steelhead in a
30 fishwheel, so you find a dead steelhead in a fishwheel,
31 it'd be legal to go ahead and keep that and if you catch a
32 steelhead in a -- live and healthy in a dipnet, go ahead
33 and release that steelhead.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. VEACH:because there is a little
38 bit of a concern for the steelhead population on the Copper
39 River. What we think this would do is it probably wouldn't
40 -- it would probably actually decrease the harvest of
41 steelhead somewhat or biologically, you know, some of those
42 fish that may not be harvested in the wheel now. I believe
43 what happens is most people go ahead and keep those fish
44 even though it's not legal to keep them. But certainly
45 there's no biological benefit to release a dead fish back
46 into the water as far as the spawning population of
47 steelhead goes. So we think that, at a minimum, would have
48 no impact to steelhead on the Copper River and it might
49 actually increase the steelhead escapement slightly.

50

00154

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the fact that there
2 are no live boxes on any of the fishwheels that I know of,
3 it doesn't make sense to put a steelhead back in the river
4 that have been into a fishwheel.

5
6 MR. VEACH: Right.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Unless the person would
9 happen to be there when it happened and wanted to. But a
10 dead fish is a food fish.

11
12 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I never thought of the
15 dipnet fishery being able to release them. So basically it
16 would be the reverse of it?

17
18 MR. VEACH: Exactly.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the dipnet fishery
21 would release their fish and the fishwheel people could
22 keep their fish?

23
24 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comments from any of
27 the other Council members?

28
29 MR. ELVSAAS: Do you have any idea how many
30 fish are taken by dipnetters of steelhead?

31
32 MR. VEACH: I don't. That information
33 would be available, but.....

34
35 MR. ELVSAAS: More than 50 or.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, no, no, it's not that
38 high?

39
40 MR. VEACH: Yeah, it's very low.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's very, very low.

43
44 MR. ELVSAAS: So it's not something that's
45 really going to damage the take?

46
47 MR. VEACH: No.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not going to damage
50 the dipnetters take, it's -- there just aren't that many

00155

1 steelhead in the system.

2

3 MR. VEACH: Right. And the Sate doesn't
4 actually recognize steelhead as a subsistence species at
5 all but the Federal program does.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In the State system they
8 have to release them automatically.

9

10 MR. VEACH: I think the State has kind of
11 the same glitch in it, that if you catch incidentally in
12 net fishery, that's a statewide regulation and that is --
13 you would be allowed to keep those fish in a State fishery.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because it's a net
16 fishery?

17

18 MR. VEACH: Right. Even though the State
19 doesn't recognize steelhead as a subsistence species.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, no comments, let's
22 go onto the next one.

23

24 MR. VEACH: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, I have a comment right
27 behind you -- Ida.

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's just a simple one.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sorry, I can't see that
32 far with my glasses on, I'll take my glasses back off.

33

34 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. Just probably
36 a typo or an edit, under number two, one, just to be
37 consistent with your first proposal, it says steelhead are
38 retained and you might want to add rainbow/steelhead.

39

40 MR. VEACH: That's a good point.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MS. HILDEBRAND: And when you get to the
45 next proposal I have more serious comments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then just stay sitting
48 there. Okay, go ahead.

49

50 MR. VEACH: Our fourth proposal would allow

00156

1 -- currently the regulations allow for subsistence fishers
2 to only obtain one permit and basically you're only allowed
3 to retain one Copper River subsistence -- you're only
4 allowed to obtain one subsistence fishing permit. So if
5 you obtain a subsistence fishing permit for the Batzulnetas
6 fishery, then you wouldn't be able to obtain a subsistence
7 fishing permit for the Glennallen subdistrict or for that
8 matter, the State Chitina dipnet fishery.

9
10 So what this proposal would provide for
11 would allow folks that fish in the Batzulnetas fishery to
12 also obtain a permit to fish in the Glennallen subdistrict.
13 And I guess the reason that we brought this one forward is
14 just that there may occasionally be years when fish don't
15 make it back to Tanada Creek and in a case like that, folks
16 that have Batzulnetas permits wouldn't have any way to
17 obtain fish from the Glennallen subdistrict and this would
18 give them the option to fish both districts and just kind
19 of increase their fishing opportunity and also allow them
20 to catch fish a little bit earlier in the season before
21 they get to Tanada Creek.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, now, why would you
24 just make it the Glennallen subdistrict when the -- you
25 know, the villages that have -- that are going to be
26 fishing at Batzulnetas, we'll just give them C&T in the
27 Chitina subdistrict also?

28
29 MR. VEACH: Well, the reason that we put
30 that forward in this proposal is because there currently
31 isn't a Federal season for the Chitina subdistrict.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

34
35 MR. VEACH: But when there -- you know, I
36 assume eventually we will have a season for the Chitina
37 subdistrict and if, and when that happens then I think that
38 would make a lot of sense.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, then why not writ it
41 in a form that just basically, instead of specifically
42 specifying the Upper Copper River district, just specify,
43 you know, other Copper River subsistence fisheries?

44
45 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh, that's a good point.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or something like that,
48 and then you don't have to come back and revisit it again.

49
50 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh, yeah, I think that's a

00157

1 good point.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I spoke out of turn, uh?

4

5 MR. GERHARD: This is Bob Gerhard, National
6 Park Service. The Upper Copper River district is the
7 Glennallen and the Chitina subdistricts.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

10

11 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

12

13 MR. GERHARD: So it is covered for both.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It covers both of those
16 then?

17

18 MR. GERHARD: It covers both areas.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay, thank you.

21

22 MR. VEACH: And I might just mention, too,
23 similarly, I was a little caught off guard there, is our --
24 we did -- we have another proposal in here that would
25 establish a season and permit for the Chitina subdistrict
26 and originally we suggested just making one permit for the
27 entire Upper Copper River district. But then after talking
28 to the SRC, there's good reasons to keep those permits
29 separate and I didn't really necessarily bring that
30 analysis back in here. So we do have that in here but I
31 think that it would be good to make that really clear.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically what this
34 would do is allow them to hold two permits, one for
35 Batzulnetas and one for the Upper Copper River district?

36

37 MR. VEACH: Right.

38

39 MR. JOHN: Does Batzulnetas -- we fish in
40 the creek there.....

41

42 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. JOHN:and whatever.....

45

46 MR. VEACH: Yeah.

47

48 MR. JOHN:and then on the Copper
49 River where they do fishwheel.

50

1 MR. VEACH: Right. Well, and actually with
2 the one permit you will be able to fish in the creek and
3 operate a fishwheel in the Copper River around the mouth of
4 Tanada Creek, but not down stream of the mouth of the Slana
5 River.

6
7 MR. JOHN: So that is a distinct
8 fishing.....

9
10 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. JOHN:different from the Upper
13 Copper River?

14
15 MR. VEACH: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, the Upper
16 Copper River district ends at the mouth of the Slana River.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have comments on
19 it, Ida?

20
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ida
22 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. On Page 13 under
23 number 5, the second paragraph, that wording concerns me a
24 little because in the Batzulnetas fishery, it's basically
25 Katie John and her descendants that own the land and are
26 eligible to fish there. And the way this wording is, it
27 sounds as though other people can get those permits and I
28 think.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

31
32 MS. HILDEBRAND:that needs to be
33 clarified. And perhaps just by striking district would not
34 -- and striking necessarily, not be able to obtain the
35 permit and strike the last line that says; and permission
36 would have to be obtained from the owners. Because with
37 the language as it's written it sounds as though other
38 people are given permits to trespass on this land.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So in other words what you
41 would suggest is just to say, to qualify they would have to
42 be residents of Mentasta Lake, Dot Lake or hold a 1344
43 permit issued by the National Park Service, additionally
44 the Batzulnetas fishery occurs on private lands.

45
46 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And just stop right there.

49
50 MS. HILDEBRAND: So in other words, I

00159

1 wouldn't assume that if I lived in the area I'd have a
2 right to apply for one of those permits.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Now, the question
5 that I have, isn't Batzulnetas also used for a camp, don't
6 you have a summer camp or a culture camp there?

7

8 MR. JOHN: Culture camp.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And see that's what I was
11 wondering, if this then allows the people who are taking
12 part in that camp, you know, the way it was written before,
13 they would have permission to be there and so the young
14 people that are taking part in that camp would have the
15 ability to take part in the Batzulnetas fishery as part of
16 the camp. Does that happen there or not?

17

18 MR. JOHN: Most of the people that are
19 there are just descendants and relatives, that's about it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

22

23 MR. JOHN: So you know.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So striking that wouldn't
26 hurt anything in that department then but it may keep other
27 people from thinking that they could go ask permission and
28 go there.

29

30 MR. VEACH: Any other comments on this
31 proposal?

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, shall we go on to
36 the next one then?

37

38 MR. VEACH: Okay. Proposal 5. This
39 proposal would establish a Federal subsistence season in
40 the Chitina subdistrict and I can see actually that I've
41 got one typo in here right now. If you look under Line A
42 it says identical to the State season and actually what the
43 SRC would like to present would be identical to the Federal
44 season in the Glennallen subdistrict.

45

46 Those that would be eligible to participate
47 are the eight villages that the Federal Board found C&T for
48 last winter. What we've proposed for the method of harvest
49 would be dipnets, fishwheels, rod and reel and that more
50 than one gear type could be specified on the permit. Right

00160

1 now the regulations, you have to choose a gear type when
2 you get the permit and this would allow you to use more
3 than one gear type. And then it would be a separate permit
4 from the Glennallen subdistrict permit. We felt that this
5 was important so that people that got Glennallen
6 subdistrict permits but didn't have C&T wouldn't be under
7 the impression that they could fish in the Chitina
8 subdistrict. But would maintain a combined seasonal limit
9 for the Upper Copper River district. So if folks were able
10 to then obtain permits for both the Glennallen subdistrict
11 and the Chitina subdistrict, what they would have would be
12 a combined bag limit between two permits so that right now
13 you can obtain up to 500 salmon on a Glennallen subdistrict
14 permit. This would enable you to obtain 500 salmon on the
15 combination of the Chitina subdistrict permit and the
16 Glennallen subdistrict permit.

17
18 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chair, I didn't keep up with
19 what the Federal Subsistence Board did, they passed the
20 subsistence fishing in the Chitina subdistrict?

21
22 MR. VEACH: Yeah. They found C&T for the
23 villages of Chitina, Cantwell, Chistochina, Copper Center,
24 Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and Tazlina; and that was
25 the result of a CRNA proposal submitted last year. But at
26 this time there is no Federal season for the Chitina
27 subdistrict. So even though there's C&T, there still isn't
28 the opportunity to fish for salmon for Federal users in the
29 Chitina subdistrict, and this would provide that
30 opportunity.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this would come before
33 the fall Board meeting, right?

34
35 MR. VEACH: Yes. So it would go into
36 effect in 2002.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically there would
39 be no season this year?

40
41 MR. VEACH: Correct.

42
43 MR. JOHN: Is there a State season then?

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's a State season,
46 yes. That's the two year lag time, or year lag time?

47
48 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Basically we passed a C&T

00161

1 and now we have to make a season for it.

2

3 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chair, I got another
4 question. The State subsistence fishery which is now in
5 place, they only could use dipnet, right?

6
7 MR. VEACH: Correct.

8
9 MR. JOHN: And then the Federal subsistence
10 could use all, dipnet, rod and reel and.....

11
12 MR. VEACH: And fishwheel.

13
14 MR. JOHN:fishwheel -- yeah.

15
16 MR. VEACH: Yeah.

17
18 MR. JOHN: That's all I got, thanks.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, shall we go on?

21
22 MR. VEACH: Okay. The next proposal is a
23 C&T proposal for the use of freshwater fish throughout the
24 Copper River drainage upstream of Haley Creek so this would
25 be all waters in the Copper River watershed that are
26 upstream of Haley Creek for the resident zone communities
27 of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park with the exception of
28 Yakutat.

29
30 Right now the Federal Subsistence Board
31 only recognizes customary and traditional use for salmon
32 and that's actually only within the Upper Copper River
33 district which is just -- and the Batzulnetas fishery which
34 is just the mainstem Copper River. So if there isn't the
35 opportunity, you know, to say, establish a Federal season
36 for, say, burbot in Copper Lake or Tanada Lake because
37 there isn't Federally recognized C&T for freshwater fish in
38 those waters.

39
40 So currently with no finding, it's open to
41 -- freshwater fish would be open to all residents of the
42 state -- that's all rural residents, actually.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Well, I find it
45 kind of interesting when I look at the communities
46 included. We include the residents that live along the
47 Alaska Highway from the Canadian border to Dot Lake. We
48 include the residents that live along the highway from Tok
49 cutoff to Mentasta Pass. We include the residents along
50 the Nabesna Road. Now, all of those are out of Unit 11 and

1 13, except for Nabesna Road. But we don't include the
2 residents that live along the road from Mentasta to
3 Glennallen. We don't include the residents that live along
4 the road from Glennallen to Chitina. We don't include the
5 residents on the McCarthy Road.

6
7 MR. VEACH: Right.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's kind of
10 interesting.

11
12 MR. VEACH: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We actually take residents
15 along the road system outside the area but we don't include
16 the residents that live along the road inside the area.
17 Fred.

18
19 MR. JOHN: I talked to Eastern Interior and
20 one of the persons I talked to is going to try to get the
21 Canadian border to Dot Lake and Tok cutoff to Mentasta
22 Pass, cut them out because those could get their -- you
23 know, their permit and everything and I was thinking about
24 the same way. Because it just open everything up, like he
25 said, the residents down here don't have it either like the
26 Chairman said.

27
28 MR. VEACH: Right. What we did is we just
29 took the -- basically the communities and the list of --
30 the customary and traditional use for the Glennallen
31 subdistrict and applied that to freshwater fish. But,
32 yeah, if that doesn't make sense, let me know.

33
34 MR. JOHN: Yeah, it doesn't.

35
36 MR. VEACH: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I know in other
39 places I have seen McCarthy and the residents of the
40 McCarthy Road, other C&T's have shown the residents that
41 live along the highway from Glennallen to Chitina, you
42 know, and it's just kind of interesting that none of them
43 -- none of those that live outside of the community are
44 included right here.

45
46 MR. JOHN: Devi.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Devi.

49
50 MS. SHARP: Devi Sharp, Wrangell-St. Elias.

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1 Mr. Chairman, I think part of the reason is just an
2 artifact of a new way of describing people who are living
3 on the road. We never felt the need to discuss people who
4 are living between Chitina and Kenny Lake or.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just consider them part of
7 the communities of Chitina.....

8

9 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:part of the
12 communities of Kenny Lake?

13

14 MS. SHARP: Yeah, right. We never wanted
15 to get into that business of drawing those find lines of
16 who lives where.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That makes sense.

19

20 MS. SHARP: You're part of one community or
21 the other. So we always assumed that it's just in the last
22 round of regulations we got into talking about on the road.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25

26 MS. SHARP: So that just developed.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I know -- like I
29 said, I noticed that we include areas that are outside the
30 area along the road but the areas that are inside the area
31 so.....

32

33 MS. SHARP: Right.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:okay, as long as
36 that's an understood thing.

37

38 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That if you live between
41 two communities, you're part of one or the other.

42

43 MS. SHARP: Right. Right. and we've made
44 a conscious effort not to draw lines on maps for
45 communities because we don't -- we feel that's pretty
46 artificial and not very productive to subsistence use.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sounds good to me. And
49 this will be for freshwater fish?

50

1 MR. VEACH: Right.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, would there be a --
4 is this, for a lack of a better way of putting it, is this
5 going to increase bureaucracy to the point that now if you
6 -- once you've taken freshwater fish then you're going to
7 have to sit down and make a set of regulations or will the
8 regulations be made in response to requests by subsistence
9 users?

10
11 MR. VEACH: Well, that's my hope, is that,
12 you know at this point we would just identify C&T, but you
13 know, right now there really isn't anything that would stop
14 these folks from meeting their subsistence needs under the
15 State regulations. But if at some point in the future
16 there's a need to limit the use then this would set the
17 stage to provide a priority to the Federal users.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. But it doesn't
20 automatically mean that we have to have now a whole
21 freshwater department to sit down and promulgate a whole
22 set of freshwater regulations?

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For these streams and
29 rivers and creeks and, you know.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean what happens is if
34 the action is taken in response to requests from
35 subsistence users, that's different than thinking that we
36 have to take over and have a duplicate freshwater fisheries
37 system?

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

42
43 MR. VEACH: The next proposal, Proposal 7
44 is actually kind of in response to a concern you raised at
45 the last meeting, Ralph. This would recognize customary
46 and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina subdistrict
47 for the remainder of the resident zone communities of
48 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, again, with the exception
49 of Yakutat that weren't included in the customary and
50 traditional use finding for the eight villages by the

1 Federal Subsistence Board last December.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And these will come before
4 us then this fall at the fall meeting, right?

5

6 MR. VEACH: Right. And at that point you
7 would need to take action on them.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And Proposal 8.

10

11 MR. VEACH: Proposal 8 is one that was also
12 brought forward -- actually it wasn't one that I'd even
13 thought of myself, this was generated entirely by the
14 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC, and what this would do -- currently
15 there's a problem in the Copper River that folks that are
16 operating fishwheels on public land leave those fishwheels
17 just above the high water mark over the entire winter and
18 certainly.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In the middle of the
21 river.

22

23 MR. VEACH: Yeah, yeah, well, you know,
24 certainly some folks are responsible but there's a
25 reasonable portion of folks that are kind of irresponsible
26 with how they're leaving their wheels and so, yeah, they're
27 getting picked up by flood flows, carried around, broken
28 up, the refuse is then getting distributed on private lands
29 down stream. One of the things that really kind of raised
30 my understanding of why this is a concern is, you know, a
31 lot of folks are using barrels to keep their wheels
32 floating and when their wheels break up and these barrels
33 wash down stream on private land, folks don't have any idea
34 of what's in them. They have to tread them as hazardous
35 materials when they have those barrels removed and it's a
36 real burden to the private land owners. So what this would
37 do, it wouldn't have any impact on folks that are operating
38 wheels on private land on their own land but folks that are
39 operating wheels on public land would need to remove those
40 wheels within 30 days of the end of the subsistence fishing
41 season.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be a simple way
44 to make sure that it was enforced. You could just say,
45 require fishwheel users to remove fishwheels from public
46 land within 30 days of the end of the subsistence fishing
47 season, otherwise they will be confiscated or open game to
48 anybody else that wants them.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's a beautiful big
2 fishwheel right in the middle of the river right now upside
3 down.
4

5 MR. VEACH: Well, just a little bit of
6 background, that's -- both with National Park Service
7 policy and my understanding, also with State policy, it's
8 really difficult to declare those wheels abandoned property
9 if they haven't been abandoned for more than a year. So if
10 folks are using them, at least, once every year, it's
11 really tough to declare those abandoned property right now.
12 So this would at least make a requirement that folks need
13 to remove those wheels.
14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, this would give the
16 Park Service or the State the authority if those wheels
17 were over 30 days, then to clean up the mess and confiscate
18 the wheels, too, wouldn't it?
19

20 MR. VEACH: I don't know as far as cleaning
21 up the mess and confiscating the wheels, but it would do is
22 it would give both the Park and the State authority, under
23 Federal -- well, actually I can't really speak for the
24 State but at least for the Federal government, it would
25 give us the authority under Federal subsistence regulations
26 to then, at least, cite the owners of those wheels. Right
27 now there really isn't anything that could be done.
28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But then the off-season
30 tourist attraction wouldn't be there.
31

32 (Laughter)
33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean when you drive over
35 the Chitina bridge and you look up river and you see all
36 those nice fishwheels sitting up on the bank up there.
37

38 (Laughter)
39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.
41

42 MR. JOHN: It's going to be pretty
43 complicated because putting in the rack of the fishwheel,
44 man that's hard work and then when it's waterlogged and
45 during the fall time, some places it's impossible to take
46 it back up and put it on -- you know, even taking it out of
47 the water for somebody up there.
48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we'll have a lot
50 of discussion on this when the time comes.

1 MR. VEACH: Okay.

2
3 MR. JOHN: Gloria.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

6
7 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

10
11 MR. JOHN: Yeah, I think this is going to
12 be a pretty hard one.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think this one is
15 going to generate some discussion in the fall.

16
17 MR. JOHN: Uh-huh.

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Actually this proposal was
20 proposed by Joe Hart of Ahtna and it occurs only on Federal
21 land and most of the area up this way is State land, so it
22 wouldn't affect our area this way from what I understand.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It doesn't affect private
25 land or State land, just Federal land?

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: Just the Federal public land
28 which is close to where the Chitina is -- where the bridge
29 is, those islands in the river there, that's the only area
30 that would be affected. So it was what Ahtna wanted to do.

31
32 MR. JOHN: If it gets too hard them, raft
33 them.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: They just wanted to get it
38 out of their islands on the river by the Chitina bridge
39 because there's a lot of oils.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A lot of junk there.

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. When the river --
46 went up this winter, some of them went down stream and some
47 of them went into the middle of the river and when I flew
48 up the Copper last summer there was fishwheels spread from
49 here to Cordova.

50

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1 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We thought we saw an
4 upside down airplane in the river, we flew down to check it
5 because it looked like somebody had dumped an airplane and
6 it was floating upside down with the pontoons on top of the
7 water and what it was was a fishwheel with real nice
8 aluminum pontoons on it. It was down just about at Mile
9 52.

10

11 MR. VEACH: Yeah. Well, that's all I have
12 for you this morning. Thanks for your time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And these are ones that we
15 will then -- these will be on our table in the fall, right?

16

17 MR. VEACH: Correct.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And these are from the
20 SRC?

21

22 MR. VEACH: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

25

26 MR. ELVSAAS: What's the price of the
27 fishwheel, it sounds like they're fairly expensive.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Some of them are very
30 expensive at this point in time.

31

32 MR. JOHN: Coffee's ready.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But when you drive
35 \$100,000 motorhome, what's a \$10,000 fishwheel.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's take a break for
42 coffee.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. At this point in
49 time we're getting ready to go onto topics and issues for
50 the Year 2000 annual report but I'm going to ask -- I'm

1 planning on asking -- because we may want to include that
2 in our 2000 annual report, an issue that's been brought
3 before us, Ann, would you like to read the letter for the
4 Council to think about?

5

6 MS. WILKINSON: We received two letters.
7 One is from Alaska Western Wildlife Alliance and one from
8 Pedro Bay Corporation. I'll just read them quickly,
9 they're short.

10

11 From Alaska's Western Wildlife Alliance in
12 Soldotna, February 18th, 2001, subject Problems with
13 unsupervised non-resident moose hunters. Dear Native
14 Community: AWWA represents people concerned with the
15 problems created by allowing unsupervised non-residents to
16 hunt moose in Alaska. We feel legislative action is
17 necessary to assure that non-resident moose hunters are
18 given the assistance needed for legal hunting and proper
19 game care during their time in the field. We feel that a
20 guide requirement will address this problem and urge you to
21 support this important effort by contacting legislators,
22 the Governor, and anyone else affected by this problem. We
23 are including a letter of support from Pedro Bay Native
24 Corporation for your consideration. If you do draft a
25 resolution or letter of support we would appreciate your
26 faxing and/or mailing a copy to AWWA. If you need more
27 information, please feel free to contact us. Sincerely,
28 David S. Haeg, Director Alaska's Western Wildlife Alliance.

29

30 And the letter from Pedro Bay was addressed
31 to Carl Moses, Representative Carl Moses, Subject: guided
32 hunting for non-resident moose hunters. Pedro Bay
33 Corporation would like to see Alaska change the moose
34 hunting regulations to require a guide for all non-resident
35 moose hunters. Non-guided, non-resident moose hunters
36 account for almost all cases of illegal or sub-legal take
37 and wanton waste according to Fish and Wildlife Protection
38 testimony. Fish and Wildlife Protection also testified
39 guided moose hunters in the same area have virtually no
40 violations. As the moose population declines there is more
41 and more competition between subsistence and non-resident
42 moose hunters. Since non-guided or drop off hunters have
43 increased sharply we can see that it is disastrous to the
44 people of Pedro Bay who depend on moose meat for their
45 subsistence way of life. Air charter companies, outfitters
46 and transporters who provide travel, gear and advice to
47 non-guided hunters are not held accountable for any
48 violations committed by those hunters. This does nothing
49 to encourage the companies supplying these services to make
50 sure their hunters salvage all edible meat, shoot legal

1 moose, respect land ownership conditions, not leave a
2 garbage dump, and not hunt the same day they were airborne.
3 Guides, however, are held to a very high level of
4 accountability and they are responsible for any violations
5 by hunters in their care. Big game guiding is one of the
6 best industries in Alaska for generating a very large
7 amount of money from a very small part of renewable
8 resource. This powerhouse of Alaska's economy is in danger
9 of being wiped out because of unregulated and unsupervised
10 use of our resource by people who do not even live in
11 alaska. Sincerely, Lisa Jacko, Assistant manager. And
12 there were letters sent to Senator Lyman Hoffman, Senator
13 Rick Halford and Representative Carl Moses.

14
15 And they ask that people take action if
16 they're concerned.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was for our
19 information. I don't know if the rest of the Council has
20 had any problems in their area with that. I haven't had as
21 much -- as much impact on guided moose hunts as on drop off
22 fisheries down in our area, down in the Prince William
23 Sound area. But I have heard comments from friends up in
24 the Kuskokwim, Stoney River area that up in the hills there
25 involved there is just somebody dropped off on every little
26 knoll that they can land an airplane on and most of them
27 are non-residents. And when they get a moose, they sit and
28 look at the moose and don't know what to do with it. So it
29 might be something that we want to think about in the
30 future or, at least, take back yourself and decide whether
31 you want to write something to your senator on.

32
33 With that, we need to go onto topics and
34 issues for the Year 2000 annual report for our area. Have
35 you got particular issues that you'd like to lay before the
36 Board? This is always a hard project for us to do because
37 we've got to come up with -- we don't have to come up with
38 anything, we can -- but if there are issues that we'd like
39 to bring to their attention, now is the time to do it. In
40 the past we've brought up the problem with the predation
41 and we've been assured that there's nothing that they can
42 do about it.

43
44 We've brought up the issues of per diem and
45 we've also been assured that there isn't anything they can
46 do about that.

47
48 Are there any other issues or topics that
49 you feel that the Board needs to pursue particular to our
50 area here? How about the halibut?

1 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, that was just what I
2 was going to bring up. The State is starting subsistence
3 halibut hearings trying to come up with regulations and
4 allowable fisheries and so forth. But I think the Federal
5 Subsistence Board should look at halibut in -- all the
6 waters outside of three miles are Federal waters.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well.....

9
10 MR. ELVSAAS:well, 200.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:12.

13
14 MR. ELVSAAS:well, 12, yeah. And,
15 you know, it's a serious thing. The last I heard they were
16 intending to limit ground line subsistence fishing to 20
17 hooks and I just don't think that that's practical. I
18 think that there's other things. One of the proposals by
19 the State was to use spears and for the life of me, I mean
20 we can't figure out how you spear a halibut.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You swim down first.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, I guess. But it is
29 something that is coming up. It's going to generate some
30 final regs and so forth, the State is willing to work on
31 it. IT looks good but I think there should also be
32 Federal. In the Cook Inlet area we have problems with the
33 salmon fisheries because of so much State lands but on the
34 other hand we have Federal waters right in the middle of
35 Cook Inlet. So we need to look at that. Are we going to
36 have to go out into the middle of the Inlet to do our
37 subsistence fishing? It's a problem. There are things
38 that need to be looked at. I don't have any answers. All
39 I know is in our meetings with our people, we come up with
40 these questions.

41
42 So I do think we need to get looking first
43 at halibut and then, of course, I would like to put more
44 into Cook Inlet salmon fishing and other fishing, shell
45 fish and so forth.

46
47 So are things that we may ask the Federal
48 Subsistence Board for guidance on.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that's a good

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1 idea. Have you got anything particular from your area that
2 you'd like to bring before the Board, concerns or topics
3 for the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware of or look
4 at?

5

6 MR. DEMENTI: Not from Cantwell area, I
7 don't really -- maybe Hollis has something, I don't know.
8 Does the SRC got any concerns or issues that we need to
9 bring before the Board? No.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Fred, you got
12 anything from your area, particular issues?

13

14 MR. JOHN: Right now I couldn't even think
15 of any, probably when we leave.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think the need for
18 a subsistence season in the Chitina subdistrict would be
19 one.

20

21 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

22

23 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, yes, definitely.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know that's going to
26 be a topic that's before us this fall, we've established
27 C&T there but we're going to need a season there now to go
28 with the C&T. And a way to reduce potential conflicts
29 there. Ida.

30

31 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee. Just for your
33 information on your predation issue, the Board didn't quite
34 dismiss it, they said they wanted a work session to address
35 predation so I'd recommend that you again raise it in your
36 annual report. And on the stipends, the North Slope
37 Council submitted a letter and a resolution to Bill Thomas
38 as the Chairman of the Chairs requesting that the issue be
39 raised again to the Board, to all Regional Councils and to
40 the new Secretary of the Interior.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Stay there for
43 a second. Now, that would be something that we could
44 support -- we could support the idea that we are in favor
45 of them having a work session on predation because it
46 drastically impacts subsistence users all over the state.

47

48 And on the matter of the stipend that we
49 support the actions of the Council, which Council is it
50 again?

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: North Slope.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The North Slope Council to
4 bring that issue back up on the table because that
5 adversely affects all members of the Councils that have to
6 take time off to attend these meetings. And that might
7 improve our attendance rate.

8
9 Thank you. Thank you, Ida.

10
11 I don't know if this is -- I don't think
12 the -- I had an issue but I started thinking that it's
13 probably not an issue for the Board to address but just to
14 be aware of, I guess. I look at it down in Prince William
15 Sound and I'm sure it's every place else and that's the
16 impact of these growing sportfisheries, drop off hunts and
17 things like that; the impact that they're having on
18 subsistence users all over the state. And that take place
19 on Federal land and pay a permit fee to the Federal
20 government for doing it. And yet, at the same time, they
21 impact the resource that leaves nothing for the local
22 people. It would be -- I guess the concern of the growth
23 of these things on Federal land and the lack of records
24 that are kept.

25
26 We just went through the Board of Fish
27 meeting. I was privileged to attend that as a Council
28 member, some of the rest of you were there, too. And it
29 was amazing to me that we see that subsistence fishermen
30 are turning reports in, commercial fishermen have to, you
31 know, we put in daily catch reports so they know what's
32 being caught and everything. Saltwater guides have to do a
33 reporting form. But it was too much trouble for all these
34 new freshwater guides and everything to have to keep
35 records and turn it in as to what they were catching and
36 what their clients were catching and what they were doing,
37 and yet that's one of the fastest growing segments in the
38 guided tourist industry if all these little freshwater
39 fisheries that are going up all over the state and the
40 Board found that it was an undue burden basically to ask
41 them to keep records. And I think it would behoove the
42 Federal government, that if these are taking place on
43 Federal land, that commercial enterprises like guiding
44 operations would be required to keep records so that we
45 could see the impact that they're having on the resource
46 and that could be a requirement as part of their permit for
47 making use of Federal land. And that way even if the State
48 doesn't do it, we could start accumulating some data as to
49 -- it's a real concern up in the North Slope, up in the
50 area up there where they got a lot of guided sheefish

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1 fishing going on and things like that. Maybe it's not as
2 much of a concern here.

3

4 But there's a real growth in fishing, drop
5 off fishing and fishing lodges and things like that.
6 Currently the State requires none of them -- not to keep
7 any records, catch records and use records and things like
8 that. So I would think that on Federal land, as part of
9 the permit process, some of those records could be
10 accumulated so we could see what kind of a growth and
11 impact there is on freshwater fish, specifically since we
12 have a proposal down here that will come before us this
13 fall to give customary and traditional findings to
14 freshwater fish. And if at the same time you've got an
15 industry that's growing by leaps and bounds, that we have
16 no idea what kind of an impact, what kind of amount they're
17 using, it would behoove us to get some information so that
18 we could at least see the changes so we could have a
19 baseline.

20

21 So I don't know how to put that to the
22 Board, but the Board could address that through the
23 different land agencies, that as a requirement for
24 commercial use of Federal land for guiding purposes,
25 freshwater fish guiding purposes, that records have to be
26 kept. And that might be something that we can work on
27 internally or it might be something the Board can give
28 direction on.

29

30 That's a concern of mine because I see that
31 growing -- I saw it growing in saltwater down in Prince
32 William Sound and I've seen the impact on some of the
33 silver salmon streams in Prince William Sound that 20 years
34 ago there was no problem going and catching your silver
35 salmon and today there's not enough -- there's not a day's
36 limit of silver salmon left in the escapement and these are
37 places where drop off -- you know, some of the major drop
38 off air taxi things have dropped off fishermen and done
39 exactly what we heard yesterday, even though they're
40 skeletons, two small fillet's taken off of them and the
41 rest of the fish sitting there.

42

43 So any other issues or concerns we need to
44 bring before the Board? Fred. We've got two Fred's.

45

46 MR. ELVSAAS: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. JOHN: I got a concern and I don't know
49 how to -- it's mostly on State land. There was tractor
50 trails that's been around for a long time, there's one in

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1 Chistochina and one in Mentasta that's used by vehicles
2 almost like a Sherman tank that drives over it and it
3 impacts us as subsistence people because with our little
4 four by four pickup we can't even drive the trail anymore,
5 those trails are so messed up, you know.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

8
9 MR. JOHN: It's like in Mentasta, going by
10 there in the fall hunt season, man, it's just like an Army
11 convey going through and every huge vehicle there is. And
12 I don't know what the State regulation on roads are, you
13 know, so there should be something done about it. I really
14 don't know because I don't know what kind of vehicle could
15 go on there but I seen everything under the sun goes up and
16 down the road and it does impact us because we couldn't
17 make it up to our -- to where we hunt or our hunting
18 grounds or our hunting camp anymore.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because it's tore up so
21 bad?

22
23 MR. JOHN: Yeah. The roads are really torn
24 up. Chistochina's got a little documentary VCR on it, and
25 it's a really good one. It's really -- it really brings
26 out what happens to trails and everything, I mean the
27 impact, the environmental, the garbage and everything
28 that's along there. I'd like to see some of the Federal
29 people, you know, look at it. It's under -- Chistochina's
30 got one out and I think Mt. Sanford's got one out on just
31 the trails. It really impacts us in Mentasta because we
32 couldn't even go out. We just go halfway up and get stuck.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How long of video's are
37 they Fred?

38
39 MR. JOHN: Joe, how long is it about 30
40 minutes?

41
42 JOE: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, maybe we could
45 take time at one of our Council meetings to show those and
46 we could figure a Council when we're going to have a lot of
47 Federal Staff there and show those. Because there's an
48 issue for concern that we addressed in the past and there
49 hasn't been any resolution on yet, is the off-road vehicle
50 problem that has impacted subsistence hunters all over the

00176

1 state.

2

3 MR. DEMENTI: The State hasn't done
4 anything about it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The State hasn't done --
7 the hearings and everything they had on it didn't
8 accomplish anything. The problems still exist. Let's just
9 say that we recognize that the problem with the off-road
10 vehicles and their impact on subsistence users has not
11 changed.

12

13 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, or if anything,
16 it's changed for the worst.

17

18 MR. JOHN: Okay.

19

20 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, at some point, we need
21 to address trophy king salmon fishery. The subsistence
22 take on kings is cut down more and more and the trophy
23 catch generates revenue but the fish is wasted.

24

25 I talked to a taxidermist and he said that
26 when he gets a fish, it's brought in and he freezes it
27 until he gets time to work on it and then he takes the skin
28 off the meat and throws the meat away and makes a model, a
29 full model of whatever, puts the skin over, and mounts it
30 and that's the trophy, but all of this fish is wanton
31 waste. If we threw that fish away we'd go to jail. And I
32 think there's something wrong here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a good way to
35 address it, the wanton waste and the trophy king salmon
36 fishery taxidermy.

37

38 MR. ELVSAAS: I think that they -- if they
39 can't utilize the fish then why can't we go and get the
40 same fish for food?

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the other thing is,
43 in this day and age, that's not necessary anymore. All
44 they need is a photograph and the measurements and most of
45 your taxidermist anymore make fiberglass molds and don't
46 use the skin and don't use the fish at all.

47

48 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I'll tell you a joke

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1 about that later.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, maybe I'll tell you
6 a joke about it now.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But it's true, they don't
11 need to -- they don't need the fish anymore for their
12 trophy because they take photographs of it, they measure it
13 and the taxidermist takes a mold out of his stock that
14 matches that fish and colors it the way the fish was and
15 most of your mounts anymore have no fish on them at all.
16 Because the fish spoils over time, the skin dries out and
17 cracks, but a fiberglass mount lasts forever. So if they
18 want to do that, then at least there should be -- you know,
19 a big game guide, when they take a moose, if the hunters
20 don't want the moose they've got to still salvage all the
21 meat and distribute that meat to people who eat it. They
22 could require the same thing.....

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:on these king salmon.
27 I mean if he's going to skin the king salmon and he's
28 frozen it, that should still be good meat, it should not be
29 wasted.

30

31 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, there's nothing wrong
32 with the meat.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So.....

35

36 MR. ELVSAAS: But the fellow I talked to,
37 the taxidermist, said he gave about a pound -- all the
38 kinds that he mounts is about a pound of that meat goes to
39 his cat, he doesn't eat fish, kind of like the guy that
40 don't eat moose, you know.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Devi, another issue for
45 us?

46

47 MS. SHARP: Back to the video that Fred was
48 speaking about, if we can get a copy, okay, if we can
49 wrestle up a copy pretty soon.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In other words, Wrangell-
2 St. Elias would like a copy of the tape?

3
4 MS. SHARP: No, we have a copy -- actually
5 my copy is just loaned out. But if Joe can get a copy,
6 will you guys spend the 30 minutes to watch it?

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Today?

9
10 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It depends on how fast we
13 get done with the rest of this stuff.

14
15 MS. SHARP: Well, Joe wants to know whether
16 it's worth running around trying to get the copy.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what time is it?

19
20 MS. SHARP: If not, the next meeting let's
21 plan on doing this.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was
24 thinking, let's plan on doing it at.....

25
26 MS. SHARP: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to do it sometime
29 -- we don't have a very big crowd here, I'd like to do it
30 when there's a big crowd.

31
32 MS. SHARP: It's a fantastic video.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it a fantastic video?

35
36 MS. SHARP: Yep.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not even noon yet, is
39 it?

40
41 MS. SHARP: Nope.

42
43 MR. ELVSAAS: 10:30.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, you know, I bet
46 we'll have time to watch it today.

47
48 MS. SHARP: Okay, let's see.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If some of these Federal

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1 Staff people make shorter reports we will have time to
2 watch the video.

3

4 MS. SHARP: I can take a hint.

5

6 MR. ELVSAAS: Is it possible to get a copy
7 of that tape? I'd like to take it back to Seldovia.

8

9 MS. SHARP: There's your man, right there.

10

11 JOE: We got about 20 copies of that
12 particular tape and sent it out to every agency and every
13 village within Ahtna region or this area, so I know that
14 Fish and Game has a copy, BLM has a copy, National Park
15 Service has a copy, DNR has a copy.

16

17 MR. ELVSAAS: I would be happy to pay for
18 the cost of making a tape.

19

20 MR. JOHN: Let's see it today.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's see it today.

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: Our corporation and tribe is
25 having a terrible time with this very thing in Seldovia of
26 people using tract.....

27

28 JOE: Seldovia was one of the villages that
29 requested a copy and also details on how to make a video
30 like it.

31

32 MS. SHARP: It's really powerful.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll take the time to
35 watch it today if you get it.

36

37 JOE: Okay. Well, those who want a copy of
38 that, sign your name on a piece of paper and I'll.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He said if you sign your
41 name he'll get you a copy.

42

43 MR. ELVSAAS: I'll go sign my name right
44 now.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Gloria, you had an
47 issue that we could take forward, I think.

48

49 MS. STICKWAN: One issue is enforcement in
50 the Chitina area. There's a lot of.....

00180

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Enforcement in the
2 Glennallen Copper River.....

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: Chitina.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: subsistence
7 fishery.....

8
9 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: or State, whatever
12 you want to call it?

13
14 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just enforcement on
17 the.....

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Copper River.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Copper River.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: And then for this task
24 force, when they talk -- when the Federal Subsistence Board
25 brings it up for the predation, I'd like to see a task
26 force of all user groups.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: involved in that. And
31 then another thing is the impact of moose and caribou from
32 -- at the State Board of Game, whenever they talk about the
33 noise level and how it impacts the moose and caribou, they
34 say it doesn't have an impact because of.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, that would be.....

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: there's a lot of moose
39 and bear.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: snowmachines and
42 ORV's, right?

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: Snowmachines and ORV's,
45 yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right, the impact.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: They say there's no impact
50 on the noise level to the animals, but I'd like to see the

00181

1 Federal side study that -- the noise level, the impact on
2 the moose and caribou because I think there is.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They probably could get
5 some copies of some of the studies that have been done in
6 Yellowstone and places like that, too. I mean they could
7 make use of some of the -- you know, there's research done
8 in other places on it also. So, yeah, the impact of the
9 noise from the ORV's and the snowmachines on the moose and
10 caribou.

11

12 Anymore?

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: And then the off-road
15 vehicles should be for all Federal lands in Unit 13, not
16 just the Chistochina trail but all.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN:you know, the whole
21 area.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we have that done, so
24 thank you.

25

26 MR. DEMENTI: You could probably add
27 airports, too.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

32

33 MR. DEMENTI: Those are loud.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, the noise -- the
36 impact of the noise of off-road vehicles and air boats,
37 good idea. Because you have that up your way.

38

39 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, a lot of it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, Ann, you
42 should be able to write a long letter now.

43

44 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah, I think so.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We went from nothing to
47 lots.

48

49 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else have any
2 other things that they see that we should include in our
3 report as issues and topics from Southcentral that need to
4 be addressed by the Board, maybe now, maybe in the future
5 or whenever, but issues that you'd like us to take before
6 them?

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that, we're
11 going to go on to agency reports.

12
13 MR. ELVSAAS: Everything's fine, go home.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if you guys do a real
16 good job we'll have time to watch a movie this afternoon.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I tell my kids
21 on their school work.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, I promised Fred a
26 joke and before you start I'm going to tell a joke on this
27 trophy king salmon fishery, and I'll tell it on Minnesota's
28 like to fish.

29
30 This guy from Minnesota came up and he went
31 down to Kenai and he caught a nice king, about 27 pounds,
32 nicest king he'd every caught, nicest biggest fish he'd
33 ever caught, so he took a picture of it and took the
34 picture to the taxidermist and told the taxidermist that he
35 caught a 30 pound king, could he make him a mount for it
36 and the taxidermist looked at it and said, oh, no, problem,
37 I'll make you a mount, 30 pound king. So the guy left the
38 Kenai and he went to Anchorage and he's sitting in his
39 hotel room and he says, boy, I bet that king was bigger
40 than 30 pounds.....

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And he called the
45 taxidermist back up and he says, you know, he says, I know
46 that fish was bigger than 30 pounds, make me a mount of a
47 40 pound king salmon. The taxidermist said, no problem,
48 I'll make you a mount of a 40 pound king salmon. Well, the
49 guy gets in his car and he starts driving up the road
50 headed back to Minnesota and he gets to Glennallen and he's

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1 thinking all the time, man, that was a big fish, that's the
2 biggest fish I've ever seen. Stops at Glennallen and he
3 calls the taxidermist back up and he says, you know,
4 something, I know that king had to be bigger than 40
5 pounds, he says, can you make me a mount for a 50 pound
6 king. The taxidermist says, no problem, 50 pound king it
7 is. Sure that's what it was. Oh, yes, it was at least 50
8 pounds, better make it 55 pounds.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The guy says no problem.
13 The guy drives down the highway, he drives through all the
14 nice country, he's headed for the border and he has to stop
15 at the customs place at Tok and by that time that fish has
16 just grown and grown and grown. He calls the taxidermist
17 up and he says, you know, I'm leaving the state but I've
18 been thinking about that king salmon, that king salmon had
19 to be way bigger than 55 pounds. He says, what's the
20 biggest mount that you have?

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So anyhow, with that.....

25

26 MR. ELVSAAS: I've caught a lot of those
27 hundred pounds one.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the nice thing about
32 fish that get away or you don't measure or weigh is it
33 doesn't stunt their growth. They can continue to grow. So
34 when you put a tape measure or a scale on them, it stunts
35 their growth.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anyhow, with that -- well,
40 actually what I was getting at is they don't need the fish
41 anymore.

42

43 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, that surprised me. I
44 thought they used the skin.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They used to but very few
47 taxidermists use it today. So anyhow -- Tim.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, under Item 11a,
50 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence

1 Management, you'll note that we have eight topics and
2 they're very brief because we also want to see the movie.
3 I'll note that I'll cover Item 1. Doug McBride will cover
4 Items 2, 3 and 4. I will come back up and cover Items 5
5 and 6. And Ann Wilkinson will cover Items 7 and 8.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I know Ann will do
8 her part to make it brief.

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, the first item for
11 briefing, we wanted to bring back before you the Kenai
12 rural determination, the request for reconsideration.
13 You'll recall we had a briefing at the fall meeting and I
14 know that you are all very aware of the history of this
15 issue, in that, the Federal Board made a decision in May of
16 2000 that found the entire Kenai Peninsula is rural.
17 Shortly thereafter there were two requests for
18 reconsideration put before the Board, one from the Safari
19 Club, et al., and one from Cooper Landing Advisory
20 Committee. The Federal Subsistence Board decided in August
21 of last year to accept those requests to reconsider the
22 decision, not making any decision on the merits of those
23 requests, but decided to look at the request and bring it
24 back up one final time. And as you may be aware, this
25 request for reconsideration is basically administratively
26 -- it's an administrative appeal, if you will, of the May
27 4th decision.

28

29 Last fall when I briefed you on this
30 subject, at that time the Federal Board had projected that
31 they would be making their final decision on the merits of
32 the RFR in mid-February. Since that time, the Board met in
33 mid-January and decided to extend the time frame by which
34 they would make its decision on the RFR and so we briefly
35 discussed this yesterday under Tab C, Page 1 on your report
36 from the Board on the fisheries issues, the actions taken.
37 The bottom paragraph of that letter to you, Mr. Chair,
38 talks about the Board's intent on the RFR. This is under
39 Tab C, Page 1, so now the Board intends to take up the
40 decision no later than June 29 and this is allowing a
41 little more time for staff and for attorneys involved to
42 thoroughly look at the merits of the claim and to present a
43 complete administrative record to the Board for its
44 decision.

45

46 We've also noted for you in this letter
47 regarding Proposal 13 and 33 from the fall fisheries
48 regulatory proposals that those two proposals, the Board
49 decided to defer final action until after the Board made
50 its final decision on the Kenai rural RFR, and also I

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1 believe you heard yesterday that the Board intends to also
2 defer final action on wildlife Proposal 49, the C&T that we
3 discussed yesterday until after the merits of the RFR are
4 decided.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. JENNINGS: And that provides the
9 update, Mr. Chair, and if there are any questions I'd be
10 happy to answer them.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
13 questions for Tim on this? So basically it's in the works
14 but it slowed down.

15

16 MR. JENNINGS: One thing I might mention
17 just as well for the members here, the agencies, in the
18 fall we polled the Council members regarding whether or not
19 your Council wanted to be involved in providing input on
20 the merits of the RFR claims and there was a unanimous
21 consent by the Council that you wanted to stand on your
22 previous recommendation to the Board, that you did not want
23 to bring up this topic again and that you had been through
24 this several times and you felt like the Council's position
25 was firmly in place and didn't need to take this matter up
26 again.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That pretty well
29 summarized, not quite as strong as we'd have probably said,
30 but, yes.

31

32 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, if there
33 are no more questions then Doug McBride will provide the
34 next several briefings.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

37

38 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, the next item
39 on the agenda is the 2001 annual studies plan. I'll try to
40 make this mercifully brief. What I just passed out is the
41 2001 annual studies plan as approved by the Federal
42 Subsistence Board at their meeting on February 26th. I
43 won't spend a lot of -- well, I'll spend as much time going
44 through this as you'd like but I'll just point out a couple
45 of things real briefly. The front page just simply
46 summarizes by region and area, the number of projects that
47 were approved. And I think the thing that will be of most
48 interest to the Council here, if you'll go to Page 4, which
49 is Table 2, this is the Southcentral region program as
50 approved by the Board and it basically is identical to what

1 we discussed with you when all the Regional Councils met to
2 review and provide comment on the proposed regional studies
3 plan back in January.

4
5 And so if you look at Table 2, the top part
6 of it are the stock, status and trends projects. These are
7 the three projects that you chose out of what Staff brought
8 to you. Like I said there are three projects, they're all
9 in the Copper River. Two of them have to deal with salmon,
10 one with steelhead. They total \$609,000, in FY-2001 and
11 then you can see how the financial commitment of those
12 programs in the two remaining years -- we have a three year
13 -- we allowed programs to be proposed for up to three
14 years. And then the bottom part of the table is the
15 harvest monitoring and TEK projects. Again, there were
16 three projects there. They totaled a little over \$200,000.
17 In total, we're going to spend about \$822,000 in the
18 Southcentral region for the 2001 project with the funding
19 commitment of \$591,000 and then \$401,000 in the two
20 remaining years.

21
22 Mr. Chairman, I'll stop there and ask for
23 questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
26 questions? Maybe I'm missing something here, the weir that
27 they weren't able to keep in last year, it was up at Tanada
28 Creek, wasn't it?

29
30 MR. McBRIDE: Yes, sir. That was -- that's
31 a Park Service and that's part of the 2000 program.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So that's still
34 funded under the 2000 program?

35
36 MR. McBRIDE: Correct.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

39
40 MR. McBRIDE: Right. There's going to be
41 just an accounting issue that everyone's going to have to
42 deal with because you've got the programs that were
43 launched in 2000 and they have multiple year components and
44 now this is the 2011 launching, it will have multiple year
45 components also.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So the 2000
48 programs aren't -- they're not.....

49
50 MR. McBRIDE: They're not part of this.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:included on this
2 list?

3
4 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: See, that's what I was
7 thinking that there would be a list that would show what
8 programs would be taking place in 2001 and that would
9 include the 2000 programs, too, you know, so we could keep
10 a -- maybe in the future, keep a running list, you know,
11 how programs are in place, how many years they still have
12 to go so we can think ahead of time on them and so when we
13 look at this we could see that -- I mean this looks like
14 this is all that's taking place in our district, but it's
15 not.

16
17 MR. McBRIDE: It's not.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that would be an idea
20 then in the future like if we could get a chart that would
21 basically show, you know, programs that were put in for the
22 last year, the year before and how many years they still
23 have to run and where the funding is coming out. Now, the
24 funding for that was funded back in 2000?

25
26 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, and then spread out
29 over -- did the Forest Service ever come up with anymore
30 money?

31
32 MR. McBRIDE: No.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

35
36 MR. McBRIDE: This program that I just
37 provided you reflects a 2 million dollar funding commitment
38 from the Forest Service, which is less than, obviously 3
39 million that was originally.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The original idea?

42
43 MR. McBRIDE: Correct, yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It was just a
46 question, I mean you never know.

47
48 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, I guess one
49 other comment is as we're writing the cooperative
50 agreements and the contracts to actually do these programs,

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1 we've built in status reports that we're requiring of the
2 individual organizations who are doing these programs and
3 one of the key dates that we've got in there is a status
4 report, I think it's September 1, but it was specifically
5 designed so we would have an update on where each of these
6 projects are in terms of meeting their objectives and their
7 financial outlook in time for the fall Council meetings. I
8 mean if you want a more detailed look at the status of all
9 the projects in 2000 and 2001, I mean we can certainly
10 provide that.

11
12
13 I think.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be a good idea,

14
15 MR. McBRIDE: It will take some time.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

18
19 MR. McBRIDE: I mean obviously -- but I
20 mean we're trying to design the program to do that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It doesn't have to be such
23 a detailed one but if we could just -- that way we'd have
24 an understanding of what is taking place in Southcentral
25 this year instead of just a snapshot of, you know -- we
26 could get a bigger picture that way.

27
28 MR. McBRIDE: Okay. We're trying to design
29 a program to do exactly that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I make one other
32 comment that I would like to see on these?

33
34 MR. McBRIDE: Of course.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would like to see not
37 only the title but I would like to see who's in charge of
38 it. I mean in other words, which -- so that we could kind
39 of see the cooperation and the building of, you know,
40 commitments between different groups and everything and
41 then it would be nice to know which of these are run by
42 ADF&G, which are run by the Eyak Tribal Council, which are
43 run by CRFC, you know, or something to that point, just,
44 you know, I guess you'd say title and author but it's not
45 an author.

46
47 MR. McBRIDE: The agency lead.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Title and agency, right.

50

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1 MR. McBRIDE: Correct.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or.....

4
5 MR. McBRIDE: And a lot of those projects
6 have multiple.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was going to
9 say, a lot of them.....

10
11 MR. McBRIDE:components to them.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:are cooperative ones
14 and it'd be nice to have a list of the agencies, you know.
15 Because that way we could also see the picture of the
16 growth in -- you know, if we can gradually get a shift from
17 one agency handling it all to it being more spread out.

18
19 MR. McBRIDE: Uh-huh. That will come
20 through loud and clear on the status reports.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good. Anybody else have
23 any questions on this? Fred.

24
25 MR. ELVSAAS: You give the total of
26 800,000?

27
28 MR. McBRIDE: \$822,300, yes.

29
30 MR. ELVSAAS: And you said out of a budget
31 of 500, is that what you said?

32
33 MR. McBRIDE: Well, the total budget -- if
34 you're talking about the budget for the state?

35
36 MR. ELVSAAS: No, when you mentioned the
37 budget, I kind of lost you. I thought you said that you
38 had a budget of 500,000 and you were going to spend eight.

39
40 MR. McBRIDE: No.

41
42 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, okay, what did you say
43 when you mentioned the total?

44
45 MR. McBRIDE: What I was trying to give you
46 was the total amount being spent in this region, and the
47 total amount spent in this region for the 2001 program is
48 \$822,000.

49
50 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay. Right, okay, I see.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. McBRIDE: Even though the -- the
4 Federal government, they don't allow us to do deficit
5 spending.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I thought -- well, never
8 mind. Where did that trillion dollar debt come from.

9

10 MR. JOHN: It wasn't us. I got a question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

13

14 MR. JOHN: Talking about budget. The state
15 of Alaska gets a lot of money from the Federal government
16 for subsistence purposes, do they have to report to the
17 Federal Board on how they spend their money?

18

19 MR. McBRIDE: Absolutely.

20

21 MR. JOHN: And do they do it?

22

23 MR. McBRIDE: Yes. Absolutely. The status
24 reports that I spoke of, I mean it doesn't matter whether
25 it's ADF&G, another Federal agency or rural organization,
26 each one of these cooperative agreements or contracts will
27 have reporting requirements built into it. And at the
28 January meeting, we did go through the status reports for
29 the 2000 -- for the program that was launched in 2000 and
30 that included everybody that was part of the program.

31

32 MR. JOHN: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else have any
35 questions for Doug? Okay, next.

36

37 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, the next thing
38 on the agenda is the issues and information needs. And
39 maybe what I'll do is go through that first and then what I
40 have is just a real brief summary of what's on the table,
41 what's been submitted for 2002, because that's the
42 application process.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

45

46 MR. McBRIDE: If you go to your book to Tab
47 F and the first thing in there is a page titled, issues and
48 information needs for the Federal Subsistence Fisheries
49 Monitoring Program and it's a form basically to fill out.
50 And what we're asking for is an update from you on the most

1 important issues and information needs from your
2 perspective for funding purposes. Now, you just had a
3 discussion of issues and information needs, and so this
4 would be specific to fisheries. And it would also -- I
5 guess, I would urge you to be as specific as possible.
6 Because with the next handout that I'm going to give you,
7 what you're going to see is we've got a lot of projects
8 sitting on the table and a much smaller amount of money to
9 spend.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. McBRIDE: So the degree to which you
14 can provide guidance in terms of funding priorities, then
15 it makes that job that much easier. What's in the packet
16 here, again, is just a form and I think it's very self-
17 explanatory in terms of priority needs from the Regional
18 Council's perspective. And then what follows is this page
19 that says issues and information needs, this is the
20 existing document that we've been working off of. If you
21 go into that document and the page numbers are in the upper
22 right-hand corner, the Gulf of Alaska region is Page 14.
23 These are the issues and information needs that you
24 identified that we've been working from in terms of
25 selecting projects for not only 2000 and 2001, and when you
26 go through this for your region, I mean basically what you
27 see there were two primary issues that you identified and
28 the first one is on the first page which is the Kenai River
29 and then if you flip the page to Page 15, then you get the
30 Copper River issues. And if you look, you know, go back to
31 the handout that I've given you in terms of the 2001
32 program, it fits right into that, at least, on the Copper
33 River side.

34

35 Now, the Federal Subsistence Board has made
36 a policy call for 2001 and that policy call is also in
37 place for 2002 to not consider Kenai Peninsula programs
38 until the rural determination is resolved. But the Kenai
39 Peninsula, and particularly the Kenai River out of the
40 picture, the program that was funded in 2001 is very much
41 directed at the Copper River. And I guess all I would say
42 is if you have other priorities, funding priorities,
43 outside of the Copper River for fisheries, I would urge you
44 as quickly as you can to fill this form out. And basically
45 what this is designed to do, Mr. Chairman, is for your
46 members to fill this out and then run these through you and
47 then back to us in terms of your issues and information
48 needs and then that will give us the input to update this
49 document.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we run that through
2 Ann instead of running it through me?

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: Sure.

5
6 MR. McBRIDE: Certainly.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically what he's
9 saying right here on the first page in Tab F, if you have
10 some priorities or issues that you feel need addressed in
11 the area that you're at, in fisheries things, write them
12 down as a priority and we'll submit them to Ann and go from
13 there. That would get them on the table as issues.

14
15 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, I guess just
16 one comment.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. McBRIDE: I think the reason that we
21 try to urge that they go through the Council Chair is so
22 that the Council comes up with a cohesive.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25
26 MR. McBRIDE:you know, a coordinated
27 package. I mean it's not going to be particularly helpful
28 if we get.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you need this before
31 the fall meeting or can we have time to work on this and
32 bring it through the fall meeting and that way we can come
33 to the fall meeting and we can decide what priority we
34 could give to them?

35
36 MR. McBRIDE: Well, I guess the sooner --
37 we've got -- we've got proposals in for 2002 right now.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

40
41 MR. McBRIDE: Now, in the fall -- I'll go
42 through the 2002 program in a minute here. But, I mean if
43 you had this pulled together by the fall I think that would
44 help a lot in terms of making the final decisions on what's
45 going to get forwarded in 2002.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that would give us
48 some time so we don't have to do it this afternoon then?

49
50 MR. McBRIDE: No.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

2

3 MR. McBRIDE: Are there any other questions
4 on the issues and information needs? If not, I've got a
5 handout then on the 2002 -- now, this is not on the agenda
6 but I thought you might be interested in this in terms of
7 what has been submitted and where we're at in the 2002
8 program.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, the handout
15 that I just gave you, what this is is simply just setting
16 the stage for what has been submitted for 2002 and then
17 where we need to go in terms of narrowing this down to a
18 program that we can actually fit within our budget. The
19 first page is simply just a distribution guideline for the
20 entire state. And the top part, Table 1, are some
21 percentages that look at all the regions of the state and
22 then the two data types, the stock, status and trends and
23 the harvest monitoring and TEK. And these percentages are
24 identical to what the program has been from the beginning.

25

26 So for instance, if you look at the Cook
27 Inlet Gulf of Alaska area, is a rough funding guideline,
28 we'd look at the available money and try to spend roughly
29 10.3, 10 percent of the money on stock status and trends,
30 five percent of the money on harvest monitoring, TEK, with
31 a total of 15 percent of the budget being dedicated to this
32 region.

33

34 Okay, so then the question is, how much
35 money is actually going to be available for new work in
36 2002 and that's the bottom part of the first page, Table 2.
37 and as we reported to you in January and also to the
38 Federal Subsistence Board on February 26th, we're
39 anticipating about 2 million dollars available for new work
40 in 2002. So if you take that 2 million dollars and apply
41 those percentages to it and if you look at Table 2 on the
42 line that says Cook Inlet/Gulf of Alaska; what that means
43 is, in total, roughly about \$300,000 will be available for
44 this region for new work in 2002.

45

46 If you go to the second page, the second
47 page summarizes what was submitted. And we put out a
48 request for proposals last fall, roughly, we have a
49 deadline of February 15th, this past February 15th, for
50 anyone to submit proposals and we definitely got proposals.

1 If you look at, and I apologize for the small type on this,
2 but if you look at Table 3 and look at the bottom right-
3 hand number, so it's this number here on the table, we have
4 -- basically what's on the table, if you will for
5 consideration is about 15 million dollars worth of
6 proposals: that's statewide. And again, we have about 2
7 million dollars available statewide. The second part of
8 that table, Table 4, simply narrows that 15 million dollars
9 worth of proposals somewhat and the biggest thing that is
10 of importance to this region is it takes off the table any
11 of those submissions for the Kenai Peninsula. There was
12 roughly about a million dollars worth of proposals
13 submitted for the Kenai Peninsula. So if you look at the
14 very bottom right-hand number on that page, that 13,573.3,
15 that's \$13,573,000 worth of proposals being considered
16 across the state. If you look at the Cook Inlet/Gulf of
17 Alaska line which would be three lines up, there's about
18 1.2 million dollars worth of proposals that were submitted
19 for consideration after we took out the Kenai Peninsula
20 proposals.

21
22 Now, in that 1.2 million dollars of
23 proposals being considered, that's new proposals that were
24 submitted by February 15th and any projects for which we
25 had an investigation plan developed that was not funded in
26 2001. And for this region there were several of those. If
27 you go further back in that table, there were six projects
28 that were not funded that we had investigation plans for.
29 So when you combine all those together, again, we've got
30 roughly something on the order of \$300,000 to spend across
31 both data-types and we've got roughly four times that
32 amount of proposals on the table. So that kind of goes
33 back to the importance of this work here.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Priorities.

36
37 MR. McBRIDE: Because the more focused you
38 can make your priorities then the easier it is to narrow
39 down this 1.2 million dollars worth of submissions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any questions for
42 Doug? So that's for the decision-making next year?

43
44 MR. McBRIDE: Right. And the time line for
45 that, like I say, we've got the proposals in hand, we'll be
46 making a recommendation to the Technical Review Committee
47 in about a month in terms of -- okay, for this region
48 there's 1.2 million dollars worth of proposals on the
49 table, we'll be making a recommendation of some portion of
50 that to actually be forwarded for development of an

1 investigation plan, and it won't be exactly \$300,000 worth,
2 it will be something in excess of that so that there's a
3 choice to be made. Okay, that recommendation will be made
4 roughly in about a month. Then those organizations that
5 are invited to develop an investigation plan, we'll contact
6 them formally and they'll be invited to develop an
7 investigation plan and those investigation plans would be
8 due sometime this summer, we'll review them and then we
9 will package those up into a draft fisheries resources
10 monitoring program that we'll then bring to the Regional
11 Councils for the fall meetings and then for action by the
12 Federal Subsistence Board next winter.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other questions
15 for Doug? Okay, on to the next section then.

16
17 MR. McBRIDE: Okay. The third agenda item
18 is the rural capacity building program, Item No. 4, and
19 again in Tab F, if you go past the issues and information
20 needs document, what you'll find is a letter in here that
21 is from Mitch Demientieff, the Chairman of the Federal
22 Subsistence Board and this -- the letter is dated February
23 13th of this year and this is the -- it's gone by several
24 names, the rural capacity building, the partnership
25 program, this is a letter, it was sent out to various
26 organizations advising them of this program and basically
27 what's on the table is there's a commitment on the part of
28 the Federal government to fund a series of positions
29 outside of the Federal government by rural organizations
30 and that's what's being designated as partnerships in the
31 Fishery Monitoring Program. As originally envisioned there
32 are nine positions, as it says in this letter, and if you
33 flip the page, there's a -- this page here that's titled
34 Federal Subsistence Board partnerships in fishery
35 monitoring, I won't go through this unless you want me to,
36 but there's basically -- it just describes what these
37 positions are supposed to do. And again, as originally
38 envisioned, the cost of this program is probably going to
39 be about a million, 1.2 million dollars. These are nine
40 positions spread around the state, outside of the Federal
41 government to do the things that are listed on this page.
42 And per this letter, this letter invited tribal and rural
43 organizations to make comments on this proposed program by
44 March 15th, just recently. And those comments were due
45 into the Office of Subsistence Management, into Mr. Carl
46 Jack by the 15th. I know for a fact that he received a lot
47 of comments, but I don't know the content of those comments
48 but they're being gone through right now and what will most
49 likely come out next, based on those comments is a formal
50 request for proposals. So an RFP will go out to make

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1 proposals for these positions, that's likely to happen in
2 the next several months and then once the proposals come in
3 they'll be dealt with on their merits and we'll go from
4 there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions on this part
7 of Doug's presentation? So these went basically to rural
8 organizations, tribal councils, village councils and things
9 like that?

10

11 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, I don't hear
14 any questions, Doug, thank you muchly for your
15 presentation. We're going to take a break for a few
16 minutes and I'm trying to -- I thought I saw somebody come
17 in that wanted to testify yesterday. I was thinking that
18 maybe what we should do before lunch, we have one person
19 that wants to give oral testimony and did we get the video
20 yet?

21

22 MS. SHARP: Yes, we did.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So maybe what we should do
25 is have the oral testimony and watch the video and come
26 back after lunch for some more reports; how does that
27 sound? Does that meet the okay of the rest of the Council?

28

29 MR. JOHN: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. ELVSAAS: That'd be fine.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have a request from our
40 administrative staff that request that people that have
41 attended today and are in attendance, make sure that you
42 sign in at the door so we have a record that you were here.
43 At this point in time, we have a request for public
44 testimony by one of the elders from Copper Center, Markla
45 Pete, and we're going to give him the opportunity to
46 address us just on subsistence issues in general.

47

48 MR. PETE: Ready?

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're ready when you're

1 ready.

2

3 MR. PETE: Markla's my name. And I'd like
4 to testify on our hunting ground on the Denali Highway. We
5 don't get a chance to get hunting -- 30 days and sometimes
6 20 days it's open. From Paxson, about 10 miles on up down
7 by -- beside the Tanga Lake there to a few miles this side
8 of Cantwell. There's nothing but mobile homes, campers, we
9 don't have any chance to hunt and that's our old hunting
10 ground. Just like city up that way. If you go to any
11 creek you see an airplane, you see city long ways, it's
12 more than that, it's all the way through wherever good
13 hunting place.

14

15 And I'd like to see do something about --
16 we're the one's that owned them grounds before for our
17 hunting but they're taken over by Fairbanks and Anchorage
18 and Palmer and Valdez, what can we do about that? Who are
19 we going to cry to? We're trying to get it back as normal
20 as we can. Our berry picking is all gone, too. So after
21 they leave, if we subsistence hunting, we don't see
22 anything except dead moose or dead caribou. Leave them.
23 I'm really against that. I really against those things,
24 you know. I never seen that way when I was growing up in
25 this valley. I was born and raised here and every one else
26 who did that, we stay here. Our trapline's been taken.
27 There's nothing we own anymore out there. We go out there,
28 that's mine, you can't go over that.

29

30 We scare of the law. We don't want to get
31 in trouble. So we have to say, okay, that's yours. And
32 every year, we hear about, we're going to change it and
33 we're going to change machine, we not going to hunt with
34 that, but I still see after hunting season closed, nothing
35 but machine tracks out there and run them animals down with
36 it and I think they scare them to death. Anybody -- any
37 human been scared for few days, I believe they go poor,
38 too, and that's what happens to them moose and caribou.

39

40 Long time ago, I never seen a poor moose or
41 a poor calf when I was a kid. I seen my dad and them kill
42 caribou, big thick, fat, healthy and moose the same way.
43 Today, you don't see no fat animal anymore because they're
44 scared too much.

45

46 Fish is the same way, what they're doing.
47 We'd go out fish, oh, I got the -- I getting not the right
48 one, throw it back in there, if human being get hurt in
49 their mouth I think they're going to die, too, and that's
50 what's happening. And here they tell us, no, you can't put

00198

1 in fishwheel. We don't want to hurt the fish. We don't
2 waste anything. We use everything we can on moose, fish,
3 caribou, bear, whatever we can get.

4

5 I don't know, they never change it. I used
6 to go to Fish and Game meeting down in Anchorage and I
7 haven't heard changing, we used to fight for this. I don't
8 know why a lot of Natives don't come in here, maybe they
9 don't know the meeting is here, do they know anything about
10 it? Do they?

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They should.

13
14 MS. WILKINSON: We advertise.

15
16 MR. PETE: They should know? I don't talk
17 behind anybody but I know you guys are working, every one
18 of you, every one of you, Fish and Game people, I know you
19 make a living out of it but I just want to let you -- let
20 you carry this one to legislator or anybody down in Juneau,
21 we're getting tired of going to meeting, meeting after
22 meeting, every year, 10 times a day -- a year, maybe more
23 and nothing happens. We'd like to see something happening
24 this year because we're losing out on everything here, we
25 don't get no meat anymore like we used to, we have to go to
26 the store to get something to eat. We never had -- we
27 don't like no beef, we never go out for beef, that's what I
28 wanted to testify about.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions. Comments.

33
34 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

37
38 MR. ELVSAAS: One thing, you know, I have
39 to agree with what you're saying and that's what we're
40 trying to do is preserve the right for people to
41 subsistence hunt and fish and work out -- you know, it's
42 certainly not easy but the one thing I did catch you
43 mention is that we make a living at this, I'm losing my
44 living coming up here for these meetings. We don't get
45 anything for this. We're trying.

46
47 MR. PETE: Yeah.

48
49 MR. ELVSAAS: And the unfortunate thing
50 about this and it's discouraging to a lot of people is it

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1 takes so long to get anything done, you know. We were just
2 talking about projects that's going to be addressed in the
3 fall and then maybe next year and I truly would like to see
4 things done like you were talking about.....

5
6 MR. PETE: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. ELVSAAS:so the people of the
9 areas have the right, first, to the resources, to the game
10 and the animals. And I do truly agree with you that people
11 will not live very long if you put a hook in their mouth
12 for awhile and drug them around and then turned them lose
13 again.

14
15 MR. PETE: Yep.

16
17 MR. ELVSAAS: I truly disagree with hook
18 and release. Thank you.

19
20 MR. PETE: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

23
24 MR. PETE: I'm a busy man, I got to go to
25 dinner.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're not going to stay
30 and watch the movie with us?

31
32 MR. PETE: Uh?

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're not going to stay
35 and watch the movie with us?

36
37 MR. PETE: I got to go up the hill.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, well, thank you
40 again.

41
42 MR. PETE: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, at this point in
45 time we're going to take a break and watch the movie.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this spring
2 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
3 Advisory Council back in session. We have Tim sitting on
4 the docket to present some of the agency reports. Before
5 he starts, I'd like to make a short comment. We all got to
6 see that video, I'd like to make a suggestion that, we, as
7 a Council, request that the Federal Subsistence Board sit
8 down and watch that video as a group and not just be able
9 to checkoff and say they saw it at one of their next
10 sessions. Just request it, we can't order them to since
11 they're our boss and we're not theirs. But if that is
12 within the wishes of the rest of the Council, we can advise
13 our coordinator to draft a letter to that effect and I'll
14 be happy to sign it. What does the rest of the Council
15 think about that?

16
17 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

18
19 MR. ELVSAAS: You'll have to get them a
20 copy of the tape.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's okay, we'll do
23 that. I'm sure that will be forthcoming if we request that
24 they sit down and watch it as a group at one of their next
25 -- at one of their forthcoming sessions. I think it's
26 worthwhile looking at it as a group, simply because I think
27 you see it different that way. We also have a person who
28 wishes to address the Council, is Evelyn here?

29
30 MR. JOHN: She's not here yet.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: She's not here yet, okay,
33 so we'll hold her's until later. And at this point in
34 time, Tim is going to give us an agency report on in-season
35 delegations to field managers, statewide rural
36 determination process. Thank you, Tim.

37
38 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, these next
39 two briefings are informational for the Council and doesn't
40 require any action on your part. I've distributed a
41 handout that's entitled selected agency briefings for
42 Regional Advisory Councils, with a brief summary of
43 statewide rural determination process and in-season
44 fisheries management delegations to field unit managers.

45
46 I'll start first with the in-season
47 delegation to field managers. This is an update for you in
48 terms of recent Board action. As you know, many of the
49 fisheries around the state are intertwined with State and
50 Federal jurisdiction. Many of the fisheries are also

1 managed on an in-season basis by in-season management
2 decisions by emergency orders on the State side and by
3 Federal action as needed -- special action or in the case
4 last year, there were some in-season decisions made by
5 Federal managers. And the reason for this is, as you're
6 probably aware, is that the special action process can take
7 some time to go to the Federal Subsistence Board for a
8 decision. Sometimes these decisions on fisheries
9 management, when you get run strength information and
10 timing information, decisions need to be made fairly
11 quickly. So on the State side, they've already delegated a
12 lot of authority to their field managers. Last year the
13 Federal Subsistence Board delegated some limited decision-
14 making to in-season managers. This year, the Board, on
15 February 26th, expanded the delegation to basically match
16 the delegation that the State has granted to their
17 managers. As your briefing notes, last year the Board
18 delegated time and area decision-making. This year
19 managers will be able to make decisions regarding gear,
20 permits and harvest and possession limits.

21
22 And the main intent here is so that
23 subsistence priorities can be met and if a situation arises
24 regarding conservation issues, that we can act quickly in
25 terms of conserving fish stocks.

26
27 Then the second paragraph notes under this
28 summary of briefing that you have before you, it's very
29 important that the Federal managers maintain close working
30 relationships with their State counterparts and are up to
31 date on recent and the most latest fisheries information.
32 Also to keep the Board informed of decisions that they may
33 be considering taking to ensure that the ANILCA mandates
34 are going to be followed. Also in-season managers are
35 strongly encouraged to work closely with Councils and local
36 subsistence users so that their decisions are not made in a
37 vacuum. And as the last sentence mentions here, if anyone
38 feels it necessary to challenge a decision of an in-season
39 manager, feels that a decision has not been made in the
40 best interest of subsistence users or conservation, then
41 there is an avenue through the special action process to
42 bring that -- or those issues to the direct attention of
43 the Board.

44
45 I'll just mention a couple other things and
46 then I'll stop for questions. Gary Sonnevill is here from
47 the Kenai Fisheries Resource Office. He is the designated
48 in-season manager for the Federal program for the Cook
49 Inlet area. And if you have any questions or want to have
50 any dialogue with Gary, this would be a good time to do so.

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1 Gary is here mainly because he had not come to a Council
2 meeting before and he said he wanted to become more
3 familiar with how the Council process works.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could we have Gary stand
6 up so everybody can see who he is?

7

8 MR. JENNINGS: Gary.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, this would be the
11 in-season manager on the Kenai.....

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: For Cook Inlet, yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For Cook Inlet, okay.

16 Thank you, Gary.

17

18 MR. SONNEVIL: Thank you.

19

20 MR. JENNINGS: The in-season manager for
21 the Copper River for this area is the Park Service
22 superintendent for Wrangell-St. Elias. And then at the
23 mouth of the Copper River, down in the Forest Service lands
24 are, the district ranger for the Forest Service out of
25 Cordova is the delegated in-season manager.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that will be Cal Baker
28 again?

29

30 MR. JENNINGS: It was Cal Baker, is Cal
31 still there?

32

33 MR. SONNEVIL: Yes.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: So Cal is still the in-
40 season manager down there.

41

42 So I'll stop there, Mr. Chair, and see if
43 there's any questions. Mainly this is just to notify the
44 Council of the expanded delegation that the Board has
45 recently made.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just have one question,
48 on the challenges to the special action, is there anything
49 set up to speed the review of those kind of actions? I
50 guess what I'm saying is that during an in-season -- in-

1 season actions during a fishery can have long term effects
2 simply because there's, you know, once they're made,
3 there's no -- and in the time it takes normally to review
4 them, the situation and opportunity have both passed. So
5 it says here that should anyone feel necessary to challenge
6 the decision of an in-season manager with a special action
7 process will bring the issues to the direct attention to
8 the Board, now will that bring them in a timely manner or
9 will -- in other words, is it a process that's set up so
10 that they can be immediately reviewed or is this something
11 that, you know, is going to happen two weeks down the line
12 and then two weeks down the line the fishery's over? Do
13 you have any idea on that?

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: Well, we haven't had -- last
16 year was the first year, as you know, of Federal management
17 in subsistence fisheries and there were several in-season
18 management decisions made on the Yukon River, on the
19 Kuskokwim River, there was one in Southeast Alaska. All of
20 those decisions were carefully thought out, coordinated
21 ahead of time, had the support of local users, Council
22 members, State of Alaska. On the Yukon River we issued
23 joint public announcements regarding Federal in-season
24 decisions as well as the State in-season decision because
25 the Yukon River is so -- the jurisdiction is so intertwined
26 between the State and the Federal lands and waters, so we
27 haven't had that situation arise where a decision has been
28 challenged or thought to be an inappropriate decision. I
29 would say that if that situation arises that the Board
30 would take that very seriously and would want to act
31 promptly.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Let's just hope
34 the situation.....

35
36 MR. JENNINGS: Doesn't arise.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:doesn't arise and
39 that all decisions are made with that kind of input. But I
40 know that there have been times in the past where decisions
41 that have been made have been challenged by going directly
42 to the -- in the case of the State, they're usually
43 challenged by going directly to the person in charge, which
44 is the -- Carl Roser (ph), director of fisheries or
45 whatever he's called, I'm not sure, and that way you have a
46 -- you have a place to go that can immediately review it.
47 So -- but I'm hoping that that never happens. But
48 realistically I know that it will.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anyhow, thank you. But
2 there is a process in place and I guess what I want to say
3 is that I hope and I think that the board understands the
4 necessity for speed because if there isn't speed in most
5 fishery decisions you might as well not make the decision
6 because either the opportunity or the crises has passed.

7
8 MR. JENNINGS: That's correct.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then you might as well
11 take care of it in regulation the next year.

12
13 MR. JENNINGS: That's correct. And that's
14 -- they've recognized that and that's why the in-season
15 delegation. The Board intends to review this on an annual
16 basis to ensure that the delegation is appropriate and that
17 the mandates of ANILCA are being followed.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other questions
20 for Tim on that?

21
22 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

25
26 MR. ELVSAAS: Did you say Gary was going to
27 be in-season?

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: Gary is the -- for Cook
30 Inlet, yes, on the Kenai, for Lower Cook Inlet. And that
31 deals with Federal lands and waters.

32
33 MR. ELVSAAS: No, no, no, what I was
34 wondering is what season? In what season?

35
36 MR. JENNINGS: Well, it's a fisheries
37 terminology where sometimes.....

38
39 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, okay, so it's just from
40 the fishing.....

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: in-season or during the
43 fisheries season.....

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: From the time the fish
48 start running to the time the fish quit.

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Right.

1 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay.

2
3 MR. JENNINGS: So the terminology is in the
4 hyphen, season; in-season manager.

5
6 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, good, good.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions?

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: And as I noted, the in-
11 season delegation to the Federal managers only applies
12 within our Federal jurisdiction.

13
14 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

17
18 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, we'll move on into the
19 second briefing that I have at this point, is the statewide
20 rural determination process. This is, again, an
21 informational update for you. I think you're all aware
22 that in our regulations there's -- it says that every 10
23 years the program will look at the rural status, non-rural
24 status of communities on a statewide basis. And as part of
25 that initiative and partly out of the Kenai Peninsula rural
26 out-of-cycle rural determination that the Board recently
27 did, there was a recognized need by the Federal Subsistence
28 Board to look at the methodology that's currently in
29 regulation and in place regarding how do we make rural/non-
30 rural determinations.

31
32 So last summer the Board directed Staff to
33 work with and develop a contract with a third-party to look
34 at the methodology when making statewide determinations.
35 The contract, scope of work, is still in process of being
36 finalized. It's nearing the point where we expect in the
37 next several months to advertise a bid for potential
38 contractors to work on this. We hope that by summer that
39 the contract will be awarded and some draft methodology
40 could begin to be worked upon.

41
42 Regional Councils around the state are
43 participating in the process and will have opportunities to
44 comment and make recommendations first on the methodology
45 and then later, once the methodology has been approved by
46 the Board through a public process, Councils will have
47 input on the rural/non-rural determinations within their
48 regions or statewide.

49
50 The three Council Chairs that are noted

1 here under Item 1 that sit with the Board whenever the
2 Board is briefed on this issue of statewide rural
3 determination process, the three are Dan O'Hara, Chair of
4 the Bristol Bay Council; Willie Goodwin, Chair of Northwest
5 Arctic Council; and Gerald Nicholai of Eastern Interior,
6 and these were the three Chairs that were designated so by
7 the entire group of Chairs, I believe at your last meeting
8 in February, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: and then the time line in
13 the future to look forward to in terms of how this process
14 will unfold, we expect that sometime during the winter or
15 spring of 2002, next year at this time Councils should have
16 the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on the
17 methodology, and then in the fall of 2002, a year and a
18 half from now, we expect and we're hoping that we can be at
19 a point where the Councils can make recommendations
20 regarding the rural/non-rural determinations for the
21 communities.

22
23 And I don't know if Taylor walked back in
24 -- Ann, is Taylor here?

25
26 MS. WILKINSON: I don't see him yet.

27
28 MR. JENNINGS: I'll just mention that
29 Taylor Breslford sits on the technical committee that
30 oversees the third-party contracting effort and if there's
31 any technical questions regarding where we're heading with
32 this contract, of that nature, then perhaps Taylor would be
33 available to answer questions on that.

34
35 So I'll stop at this point and see if
36 there's any questions on statewide rural determination
37 methodology and the process.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions. Nope,
40 you've done a good job.

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
43 next two briefings will be done by Ann.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Ann, you don't have
46 to get up and go there, you've got a microphone right in
47 front of you.

48
49 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. The first is
50 regarding Council member travel. The Office of Subsistence

1 Management has hired two travel people to handle Council
2 travel and some staff travel and so each Council has been
3 assigned to a travel person within our office and then that
4 person will get to know the Council members and their
5 preferences, after time, in working with you. In your book
6 at Tab F, almost to the very end is a paper about travel
7 reminders and I also printed one out on pink paper just so
8 it's easier to keep with you, but there are some really
9 important things for you to note. Returning your travel
10 vouchers, it's very important that you do it within a month
11 after the meeting, sooner is better than later.

12
13
14 right?

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Reminder to the Chair,

15
16 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah, I'm looking at you.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MS. WILKINSON: Anyway, if you do not turn
21 them in within a month, the office will complete them from
22 what they can estimate your travel was and travel times and
23 so you may or may not get the full amount that you are due.
24 The travel advances you get are only 80 percent of the
25 money for your per diem claims and travel. Also if you
26 have extra expenses like cab fare and such that we wouldn't
27 know about then that wouldn't be included but you can write
28 that on your travel voucher.

29
30 There's also a new situation that has
31 arisen with hotels. And we are asking that if you find out
32 that you will not be attending the meeting, even if it's a
33 day beforehand, please let us know so that we can cancel
34 the hotel reservations. We've had some instances recently
35 where without 24 hour notice the hotel will go ahead and
36 charge us the full fee.

37
38 And that's basically it. Just one other
39 thing I wanted to note about that is that when the travel
40 vouchers that you send in come to the office, they don't go
41 to me, I don't see them, so I don't know whether you've
42 sent them in or not.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can't even call and
45 remind us?

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: So I can't call and remind
48 you. So it's totally up to you. Do you have any questions
49 about that at all? No, okay.

50

1 The second thing is about the Federal
2 Subsistence Lifestyles Art Contest. You'll remember last
3 fall we initiated the very first Subsistence Lifestyle Art
4 Contest for school students all around the state and there
5 were over 1,300 students who participated in that. Some of
6 them sent in only one, some sent in one or two, but anyway
7 it was really a lot of fun going through them to select the
8 finalist. There were 40 finalists, and those were
9 presented to the Council Chairs who met last fall at the
10 Board meeting, and those people selected the winners. And
11 the winners were -- the two grand prize winners were Kyle
12 Kruger from Anvik and Milton Koenig from Kivalina. Kyle's
13 picture is on this year's fisheries book and Milton's will
14 be on the wildlife book that comes out. The other winners
15 received ribbons and there's a list of all the winners in
16 the book. I won't read them off to you. But we did get a
17 report that the school children were very excited about
18 this, the teachers really enjoyed it. It was a good thing
19 for all. And just from my perspective as somebody who
20 sifted through all these 1,300 looking at them, to select
21 40 finalist, there was a panel, it wasn't just me doing it,
22 something I really very much appreciated about it was in
23 all of the pictures, the people were smiling and happy.
24 The fish being caught were happy.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. WILKINSON: The animals with bloody
29 wounds were happy.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: Everybody was smiling and I
34 really was touched by that. It meant to me that these
35 children have a very good understanding of things and it
36 was really a good thing to see. And next year we'll do the
37 same thing. So I'm hoping even to -- on your next book,
38 notebook, put one of the pictures on it. That was just an
39 update on that for you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was a lot of fun
42 looking at all the pictures.

43
44 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And like she said, we did
47 a process of elimination. The Chairs went through them all
48 and eliminated some and then went back through and
49 eliminated some more and then went back through and
50 eliminated some more until finally they ended up with the

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1 ones that were the top winners. There were some really
2 neat pictures, it was hard to do.

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And not every one I picked
7 won.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But everyone else said the
12 same thing so it shows that it was hard to pick which ones
13 it was going to be.

14
15 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Ann, have you got
18 anything further you'd like to share with us at this point
19 in time?

20
21 MS. WILKINSON: No.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Has Evelyn come
24 yet?

25
26 MR. JOHN: No.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. Okay, in that case
29 we're going to go on with our reports. We have a Forest
30 Service report. The nice thing about Forest Service
31 reports is they take two and a half hours.

32
33 MR. HOLBROOK: I'll do my best.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, when Steve comes he
36 always brings a stack of papers about that thick to give
37 us.

38
39 MR. HOLBROOK: Okay. And this is all
40 information for you.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MR. HOLBROOK: Mr. Chairman, Council
45 members. My name is Ken Holbrook, representing the Chugach
46 National Forest. I wish to give a brief -- give you a
47 briefing on the status of our 2000 monitoring for wildlife
48 and bring up a couple of issues that have come up as a
49 result of that monitoring.

50

1 In Game Management Unit 7, we've been
2 monitoring the Kenai Mountain Caribou Herd. We found that
3 both the population and the habitat -- we found that the
4 population has dropped from 450 to 300 in the last three
5 years, and this is information since this is not a --
6 there's not a Federal hunt yet at this time. We've been
7 monitoring moose in the Copper River. We had the first
8 season this year for subsistence. We had five permits
9 issued out of 484 applicants, all five were successful.

10
11 On the.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask a question?

14
15 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes, sir.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That five applicants did
18 not include the permit that went to the Native Village of
19 Eyak for a moose?

20
21 MR. HOLBROOK: No, it did not.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it's actually there's
24 six cows.

25
26 MR. HOLBROOK: Six, but that was not
27 through the same applicant process.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Okay.

30
31 MR. HOLBROOK: We had -- and then this
32 Kings Bay moose hunt for Chenega and Tatitlek, we completed
33 the survey last month, the population is down to nine
34 animals. And that brings us to concern and I wanted to
35 talk to you about that and see whether you have any concern
36 with that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that was one of the
39 reasons that we, you know, recognize that it's a Tatitlek
40 and Chenega Bay hunt and I see they haven't taken an animal
41 there since 1997 and that was one of our concerns with
42 extending C&T to the Kenai Peninsula for Kings Bay.....

43
44 MR. HOLBROOK: Uh-huh.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:which we didn't do.

47
48 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically that hunt,

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1 Chenega and Tatitlek have not taken an animal, they've
2 closed the hunt themselves and the herd is declined from 20
3 animals to nine animals.

4

5 MR. HOLBROOK: That's correct.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there is no other that
8 takes place on those animals.

9

10 MR. HOLBROOK: No, there's not. So.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we could either -- you
13 could either close it or you could continue to respect the
14 Chenega and Tatitlek will keep it closed themselves.

15

16 MR. HOLBROOK: Well, I was going to talk to
17 them and see what they would want to do but I was going to
18 ask you also, whether we should actually have the season
19 closed and see what happens with the population.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't.....

22

23 MR. HOLBROOK: Because we will continue to
24 monitor.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think if you continue to
27 monitor, I think the idea would be to talk to Chenega and
28 Tatitlek. My indication is that they recognize the
29 smallness of that moose herd and haven't taken a moose
30 there for four years in response to it.

31

32 MR. HOLBROOK: Well, they have hunted but
33 have not been successful.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. You could see what
36 they think, I think, but at that level -- that's a marginal
37 herd anyhow, it's not -- it's a question of whether that
38 herd can maintain itself there. It's not -- hasn't always
39 been.....

40

41 MR. HOLBROOK: Correct. And it may not be
42 in the future.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it may not be in the
45 future. If we go back into hard winters, it may not be
46 able to sustain.

47

48 MR. HOLBROOK: Uh-huh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We've had a couple of deep

00212

1 snow winters now but.....

2

3 MR. HOLBROOK: And that's why we feel the
4 herd's gone down.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That that affected it?

7

8 MR. HOLBROOK: Uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I would think is the
11 first thing to do would be to talk to Chenega and Tatitlek
12 and if they're willing to, you know, not hunt it then you
13 don't need to close it.

14

15 MR. HOLBROOK: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But if they feel that
18 they're going to hunt it, which I doubt, you could take a
19 bull up there and not affect anything when you've got three
20 bulls and six cows.

21

22 MR. HOLBROOK: Uh-huh.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But if you take two.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh?

27

28 MR. HOLBROOK:but if you take two
29 bulls.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

32

33 MR. HOLBROOK: Okay. I plan on talking to
34 them and we'll see where we go from there. Then with the
35 mountain goat population and monitoring in Unit 6, we had
36 eight permits issued and two goats taken.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And these are subsistence
39 permits?

40

41 MR. HOLBROOK: These are subsistence
42 permits, yes. I'm not reporting on the State. And the
43 herds appear to be in pretty good condition. And then the
44 other handout is much more specific on the goat population
45 and information.

46

47 And then the deer monitoring, from the
48 pellet groups and habitat, we're looking at a 15 percent
49 increase in population since 1999. And likely with this
50 low snow year that we've had and probably low hunter

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1 success because of the snow not pushing the deer down, the
2 population is probably up again.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You should have a big
5 increase this spring.

6

7 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They never did get any
10 snow of any depth on the islands, did they?

11

12 MR. HOLBROOK: No, they didn't. And from
13 the reports I got that the hunting success was fairly.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hunting success was
16 extremely low?

17

18 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they'll probably have
21 two fawns apiece this spring.

22

23 MR. HOLBROOK: And then we'll have a
24 concern about habitat as we've seen in the past when things
25 like that happen.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any other
28 information on that -- any questions that anybody else has
29 on it?

30

31 MR. HOLBROOK: And I can go into more depth
32 on any of this.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think I'm probably the
35 only one that's really.....

36

37 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:totally interested in
40 this part here because I know most of these hunts. I think
41 you've got sufficient information here for me.

42

43 MR. HOLBROOK: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, do you have some
46 proposed actions or anything -- or there any proposed
47 actions from the Forest Service that affect subsistence?

48

49 MR. HOLBROOK: Not at this time.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not at this time.

2

3 MR. HOLBROOK: And you have to understand,
4 I'm brand new right here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. HOLBROOK: I just walked into this
9 shortly.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Right. Well,
12 that's what I was wondering, is if there are -- there are
13 no proposed closures except for possibly that one on Kings
14 Bay?

15

16 MR. HOLBROOK: That's the only one.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

19

20 MR. HOLBROOK: And we have some concern
21 with what's going to happen with that caribou herd.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On the Kenai?

24

25 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

28

29 MR. HOLBROOK: It's not been declared C&T
30 yet, there isn't.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There isn't even a season
33 on that, is there?

34

35 MR. HOLBROOK: No, there's not. Just today
36 -- or yesterday decided to.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We got the C&T.

39

40 MR. HOLBROOK:make a recommendation
41 for C&T, but there is no season.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. So there is no
44 sport hunt or no subsistence hunt on that?

45

46 MR. HOLBROOK: There is sport hunt by draw
47 permit managed by Fish and Game.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bulls?

50

1 MR. HOLBROOK: Yes. And their opinion is
2 that because of the status of the herd now.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Range.

5
6 MR. HOLBROOK:and the range that
7 they'd like to keep the population at the current level or
8 even maybe a little lower until the range improves. And
9 what we are going to -- going to be sampling the range over
10 the next couple of years to see what the condition is.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Depending on what action
13 the Board takes on our decision to request C&T for the
14 Kenai on that, then it's possible that the next round of
15 goarounds, we'll have to be looking at a subsistence for
16 there?

17
18 MR. HOLBROOK: That's correct.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Especially if there's a
21 sport season on it right now.

22
23 MR. HOLBROOK: There is a sport season so
24 we would expect to see a subsistence harvest on that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions? I
27 don't hear any. Thank you, muchly.

28
29 MR. HOLBROOK: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I didn't catch your
32 name, again?

33
34 MR. HOLBROOK: Ken Holbrook.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ken. Okay, Ken, thank
37 you. Okay, now, we have the Bureau of Land Management in
38 Glennallen to give us the information on the Copper Road
39 caribou hunt -- oh, is the Chena Trail underneath the
40 Bureau of Land Management -- I hope you watched that movie
41 very carefully. Well, is that trail up -- the one that
42 you're talking about, is that on BLM land or is that on --
43 you better check that out.

44
45 MR. WATERS: Are you talking about the
46 Mentasta Trail there? I thought you was talking about the
47 one right in Mentasta also.

48
49 MR. JOHN: Yeah, there's one in Mentasta.

1 MR. WATERS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
2 Council members. My name is Elijah Waters, I'm the
3 wildlife biologist for Glennallen and I've qualify that
4 right away saying that I am not the easement specialist for
5 Glennallen.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. WATERS: As you can see -- go ahead.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The easement's used for
12 hunting so it falls in your lap.

13
14 MR. WATERS: That area is not open to
15 Federal subsistence hunts.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

18
19 MR. WATERS: Okay. As you can see from
20 your handout, we've given out about 2,200 caribou permits.
21 About 1,400 of those are to residents of 13. The moose
22 season, we gave out 723. And for the residents of 20(D),
23 about half of those permits were issued through Fairbanks.

24
25 Okay, on the next page, I'll try to keep
26 this brief, I know Ralph is.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask you a question
29 before you go on any farther?

30
31 MR. WATERS: Sure. Sure.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It says this is the first
34 year those permits were available through Fairbanks?

35
36 MR. WATERS: Right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Last year the residents of
39 20(D) were also eligible for subsistence permits in Unit
40 13, but the permits were issued through Glennallen?

41
42 MR. WATERS: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How much of a growth in
45 permit issues was there between last year and this year or
46 do you have that coming up?

47
48 MR. WATERS: Actually that's on the next
49 page. Not a big increase.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not a big increase.

2
3 MR. WATERS: Not a big increase at all.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So in other words having
6 it easier access to getting permits didn't impact the
7 amount of permits very much?

8
9 MR. WATERS: Okay, let me qualify that.
10 The year before Glennallen staff actually went to Delta
11 Junction and issued permits out of Delta Junction. So this
12 year, since we weren't planning on going to Delta Junction,
13 we tried to accommodate them by giving them a choice of
14 where they could get their permits.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, the year before that
17 were they eligible?

18
19 MR. WATERS: Yes, this is the third year
20 that Delta Junction has been eligible.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the year before that
23 they were eligible but the permits were issued through
24 Glennallen.

25
26 MR. WATERS: That year we went also.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, you went.....

29
30 MR. WATERS: That was the first year.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You went two years up
33 there?

34
35 MR. WATERS: Right. Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

38
39 MR. WATERS: We did go two years to Delta
40 Junction.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

43
44 MR. WATERS: And this year, like I said,
45 just to try to make it -- give them their choice, we made
46 those permits available at Fairbanks or Glennallen.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

49
50 MR. WATERS: Okay, on the next page you can

1 see the historic levels of permits that we've given out and
2 also the take. First of all I want to call your attention
3 to the moose. Moose harvest information is now available
4 and the total of 40 moose were taken on the Federal
5 subsistence hunt. That is almost the lowest on record and
6 when you figure hunter success rate, it is the lowest on
7 record.

8
9 The caribou harvest information is not
10 available. That season, as you know, goes through the end
11 of this month. That information probably won't be
12 available until April or May.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have a feel for
15 what's happened up to this point in time?

16
17 MR. WATERS: I actually think it's going to
18 be lower than average. Not because of the -- you read a
19 lot about the caribou herd, but as you all know, the
20 success rate on that hunt is more of a function of animal
21 timing, when they're in the area and I think this year it's
22 going to be lower than average. There's just a few animals
23 in the area now but there's not a lot of pressure.

24
25 Okay, the next thing I want to point out at
26 the bottom of the page, I've been promising for a year that
27 we're going to have a ranger, a law enforcement ranger and
28 if you were here yesterday you saw the only guy walking
29 around in a uniform and a gun, he's our ranger, and he has
30 been out, you know, getting familiar with the Federal hunt
31 and has assisted on a couple little investigation-type of
32 things. Nothing major.

33
34 Also I'd like to introduce our field
35 manager, Ramone McCoy, and if you have any questions about
36 easements, she is the person to talk to.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. WATERS: And also I don't know that
41 this has been made public or announced, at least, but
42 Taylor Breslford, formally of Fish and Wildlife Service is
43 also the state coordinator for subsistence now for the BLM.
44 So just be aware that he doesn't work for Fish and Wildlife
45 Service anymore.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MS. McCOY: So he's responsible for the
50 easement zoning.

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1 MR. WATERS: Yeah, that's right.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 MS. McCOY: He's got a lot to learn, just
6 by association.

7
8 MR. WATERS: Exactly. He's also the state
9 easement coordinator.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elijah, can I ask you a
14 question real quick.....

15
16 MR. WATERS: Sure.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:before we skip on a
19 little farther.

20
21 MR. WATERS: Sure.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Back to Officer Ron
24 Nelson.

25
26 MR. WATERS: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doe the BLM enforcement
29 ranger also enforce State regulations such as shooting off
30 the road and things like that?

31
32 MR. WATERS: Absolutely. HE is
33 commissioned to do that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

36
37 MR. WATERS: He.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So he will enforce both
40 Federal and State regulations?

41
42 MR. WATERS: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Including leaving gut
45 piles on the road side and shooting off the road and things
46 like that?

47
48 MR. WATERS: He can -- let me -- I'm not
49 the person to ask that, probably Ramone is, he can enforce
50 those regulations and, you know, it's his -- his priorities

1 are determined by her, you know, not by me and not by the
2 Federal -- you know, the Federal hunt when it's in but I'm
3 sure that he will enforce whatever he sees. Ramone, would
4 you.....

5
6 MS. McCOY: That's correct.

7
8 MR. WATERS: Okay.

9
10 MS. McCOY: Yes.

11
12 MR. WATERS: But, yeah, that's a.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a cooperative
15 agreement on enforcement between the Federal and the State
16 then?

17
18 MR. WATERS: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

21
22 MR. WATERS: He's pretty -- he's not new to
23 Alaska, he's new to the BLM. But he has been an officer in
24 Galena and also Kodiak, so he's pretty familiar with
25 subsistence and the hunting regulations already.

26
27 The next thing I want to point out, we just
28 have a permit system -- a computer-based permit issuing
29 system in place. We're kind of testing it, tweaking it
30 right now, but next year it should be fully up and running.
31 And the time it takes for us to issue permits should be cut
32 down to less than five minutes. Most of the people we give
33 permits to are repeat customers so, you know, when I see
34 Ralph walking through the door I can have his permit ready
35 to go, ready for him to sign as quick as he walks in the
36 door. So it should speed up that significantly.

37
38 The next thing I want to point out, on the
39 last page here, we have some money available this year to
40 do a subsistence user survey. And as the gentleman
41 testified today, if you go up to places like the trail head
42 at Sixteen Mile on the Denali Highway, it looks like Wal-
43 Mart parking lot in September. There's just tons of
44 hunters there and a lot of those people are State hunters,
45 whether they're State subsistence hunters or State sport
46 hunters and we have some money to survey those users and to
47 try to figure out what percentage of those are Federal
48 users versus the State users or State hunters and we can
49 get a handle on, you know, whether they're guided hunters,
50 whether they're sport hunters or whether they're

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1 subsistence hunters. And the first step, you know, the
2 first step is to document that, you know, we know that it's
3 a high use area, we know that that's open to Federal
4 subsistence but the first step is to try to document it to
5 show that a lot of those people are non-Federal users. so
6 we do have some money for that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I make a
9 suggestion.....

10
11 MR. WATERS: Sure.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:for questions to ask
14 on the survey?

15
16 MR. WATERS: Sure, absolutely. It's not
17 final yet by no means.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What method of
20 transportation they're going to use and how far they intend
21 to go back in.

22
23 MR. WATERS: That's a key. And if you look
24 at the bullets there, the third one, how users are
25 accessing the public lands. And as you know, when you turn
26 in your permits you're supposed to put how you hunted,
27 whether you used a snowmachine, ATV, whatever, and that
28 information is summarized by Fish and Wildlife Service but
29 I'm not quite sure that the hunters are being honest when I
30 look at the results back, because I see a whole lot more
31 ATVs and RVs than I see what's coming back in the surveys.
32 So we're going to get a good handle on that to be able to
33 quantify that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You mean a lot of people
36 are walking to their ATVs and back?

37
38 MR. WATERS: They must be.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. WATERS: I've done some pretty good
43 counts on that this year in September. I surveyed that
44 area myself about three days a week and I counted ATV
45 trailers and RVs and that kind of thing so I know there's a
46 lot of them out there, but if you look at the Federal
47 subsistence hunters, those surveys come in as significantly
48 lower than what I'm seeing on the ground. And so we need
49 to figure out where those people coming from, are they
50 recreationalists, are they hunters, are they Federal, are

1 they State, are they sport, what are they?

2

3 And the final thing I want to point out and
4 this is not on your sheet, but as the gentleman, again,
5 said today about the ORV use or the ATVs and getting on the
6 trails, we actually have a project. We're trying to fund a
7 graduate student who will investigate what impact those
8 snowmachines have on wildlife with the harassment, and this
9 is specifically looking at moose, you know, how they are
10 stressed by snowmachines and whether that makes them more
11 susceptible to predation or not. So a lot of the Council's
12 concerns and public's concerns, we are hearing that and we
13 are addressing those.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Elijah.

16

17 MR. WATERS: So hopefully I'll have more
18 information on that at the next meeting. And with that,
19 any questions, I will refer to Ramone or Taylor.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Elijah?
24 Nice to see that some of our concerns were anticipated.

25

26 MR. WATERS: Well, it's the same concerns,
27 I mean I'm a hunter myself, a subsistence hunter now that
28 I'm qualified, so, you know, you have to be blind to not
29 have some of those same concerns. You know, and we know a
30 lot of the problems but identifying concerns versus doing
31 something about them is two completely different things.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You've done a lot of
34 flying in the area in 13, haven't you?

35

36 MR. WATERS: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have you -- you know, we
39 just saw an example of extreme trail degradation on that
40 video.....

41

42 MR. WATERS: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:are there bottlenecks
45 and places up in 13, where with all of the traffic that we
46 have up there, the degradation is just as bad?

47

48 MR. WATERS: Absolutely. That could have
49 been -- that trail could have been 20 places up in there.
50 All of the major trails, Sweet Lake Trail immediately jumps

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1 out, Landmark Gap, MiddleFork Trail, all of those trails,
2 you know, they're all like that. That's not, you know, an
3 isolated case.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So even there where those
6 trails go so far back in, there's places that are damaged
7 like that?

8

9 MR. WATERS: Yes, absolutely.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

12

13 MR. WATERS: Any other questions?

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Elijah. Okay,
16 National Park Service.

17

18 MR. JOHN: Evelyn is here.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Evelyn's here?

21

22 MR. JOHN: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Should we take a break and
25 let Evelyn testify right now? Are you ready to testify?

26

27 MS. HASH: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If the National Park
30 Service doesn't mind.....

31

32 MS. SHARP: No.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:we'll take a quick
35 break and a change of pace.

36

37 MS. HASH: I'm Evelyn Hash. We already
38 have a darn good centuries old, tried and true management
39 of our resources, the Ahtna people. And we've been
40 managing the land and the water, the air, the rural people
41 and the fish and the animals. The so-called Denali Park
42 and Mt. St. Elias Park and all the other Parks and lands
43 belongs to one sovereign indigenous tribe or another.

44

45 Those who have made a darn good living off
46 of Native subsistence and hunting and fishing regulations
47 have been getting paid for years and years, have failed to
48 represent the rights of the indigenous people or the
49 animals and fish, the trees or the environment or to
50 recognize the efficient -- excuse me -- or to recognize our

1 fish and game management. Now, you come yet with another
2 proposal or more proposals which took many man hours and
3 hard work, being away from your loved ones and using up all
4 your personal time, and if our brothers and sisters from
5 Kenaitze Tribe want to keep their trade routes, get out of
6 their way. Help enforce, instead, the ones who will only
7 go with no laws, harassing, using snowmachines, four-
8 wheelers across Alaska; leave us alone. I say it again.

9
10 If you want to learn of our ways and laws,
11 we have followed for three ice ages or so, pay our people,
12 the Ahtna to teach you to love and share your own food.

13
14 Keep off the ecosystem. Help us keep
15 people off the ecosystem. Help us make it walking paths
16 only. Because if you don't keep these trees that are
17 growing here then you won't have air to breath for the rest
18 of the world. If you kill our land, you kill your own
19 self. And that's what I'm saying, we need to cooperate
20 with Chistochina, with keeping the people off of their
21 lands and Mentasta and all these villages around here.
22 Like they said, there was only one main trail, we've stuck
23 to the trail. We didn't go run off and dirty it and
24 pollute it and -- because we know how long it takes for
25 that vegetation to grow. We know how long it takes for
26 those little -- very little animal is important. Every
27 little thing, the caterpillars, the birds, everything. You
28 know, I hear it's their -- I shouldn't cuss, about their
29 damn right to -- American right to do anything they want
30 with the snowmachines and stuff, but they got to build
31 indoor snowmachine places or something, they've got to do
32 -- people have got to stop wasting gas and polluting,
33 especially Ahtna lands, we don't want them here. We've
34 lived here for so long, we want to be able to keep it that
35 way because if we don't, the whole world doesn't -- the
36 world suffers. There will be no free -- no warm air -- I
37 mean no clean air, no clean water, and then what are you
38 going to do.

39
40 You know, it's finally important right now
41 to get these things in place and obey them.

42
43 And that's all I have to say.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
46 questions for Evelyn? Thank you Evelyn.

47
48 MS. HASH: Uh-huh.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, just reminders.

1 Okay, National Park Service. Hollis.

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, Council members,
4 Hollis Twitchell, Denali National Park. I have nothing
5 that needs any action on behalf of the Council but I have a
6 few things I'd like to just update you on that's going on
7 in the Denali area. The first thing is we took some time
8 in our last meeting March 5th to recognize our Subsistence
9 Resource Commission members. WE feel we have a pretty
10 unique and amazing group of people on our commission.
11 These people are all voluntary in terms of their service on
12 the Commission as well. We were adding up the number of
13 years of voluntary service that this particular Commission
14 represents and we have over 98 years of service by members,
15 three of them have been on for 19 years, one for 15 years,
16 several for seven and others for four. And they've
17 provided a significant input to Denali in terms of
18 subsistence use in the areas. We took some time just to
19 recognize those individuals which we will do with Gilbert
20 when he comes to our next meeting April 30th in McKinley
21 Village. The rest of the members were at the last meeting
22 and received recognition for their contributions.

23

24 The thing that I just handed out to you was
25 a suggestion by the Subsistence Resource Commission. They
26 were concerned that the Park Service was not doing enough
27 to bring information forward to visitors to the Park in
28 terms of cultural and subsistence use in the Denali area.
29 So working with the Commission we put together this
30 brochure which has a target audience of visitors that are
31 new to Alaska and new to Denali to help them understand
32 what sort of cultural uses and subsistence activities are
33 going on in the Denali area. Our intention is to make that
34 available at the entrance so as they pick up the Park
35 brochure they'll be able to pick this up as well and get a
36 little bit of information of what's going on in the area.

37

38 We also have just finished a number of
39 pretty interesting projects. One of them was the
40 ethnographical review and assessment of the area, which is
41 really designed to gather all information that's available
42 out there and organize it in layman's terms for managers to
43 better understand the cultural uses of the area. We've
44 just finished that report and I have a copy of it here that
45 I'll leave with your coordinator. You can look at it if
46 you choose to. She'll have a copy of it for your
47 reference.

48

49 Another component of that overview and
50 assessment was contracting with our tribal Councils for our

1 communities around Denali, to provide them an opportunity
2 to write their own village or community histories and
3 present the type of information that they feel it's
4 important for our sales managers to know about them and
5 their use areas. So that was done for the communities of
6 Cantwell, Nikolai, Telida, Lake Minchumina and Tanana, so I
7 have copies of those reports as well. And I'll leave those
8 with the overview and assessment with you.

9
10 The last thing I was going to mention is
11 that we've started a program which we go into the
12 communities, again, with concurrence of the tribal
13 councils, working with them to revisit our community use
14 profile studies for several of our areas that were done in
15 the early '80s. We're concerned that the information
16 that's presented in these community profile studies may not
17 necessarily represent the long-term historic use of the
18 communities and the people, use of the areas. So we've
19 gone back in with an intention to not only update the
20 community profiles to more current information, since many
21 of these studies were at least 15 years ago when the State
22 visited the communities, but also to generate that
23 historical record back as long as we can. The intention
24 here is we've had a lot of difficulty in dealing with some
25 customary and traditional use aspects of subsistence users
26 in Denali and we feel a part of that difficulty is because
27 we didn't have a really good data base and information to
28 work with so this is an effort to try to eliminate those
29 sorts of difficulties in the future. And again, when we go
30 into the communities we hire and work with local people to
31 assist and to gather the information as well.

32
33 So with that, those are just some of the
34 more recent projects we just finished last year, Native
35 place mapping project, where we again worked with the
36 tribal councils and the local elders to expand and build
37 upon our information in terms of place names in the Denali
38 area. And although, I didn't bring a copy of that report
39 with me, I will also provide it for yourselves. So we've
40 expanded the number of place names associated with the
41 Denali area to over 1,500 place names, and those would
42 represent all of the cultural groups associated with the
43 different regions of Denali. So we're very pleased with
44 that and our intentions would be sometime in the future
45 when more funding becomes available to try to produce a
46 map, a place name map, with annotations on the back
47 representing the Denali area. So hopefully we'll see
48 something like that come out in the next few years.

49
50 So with that, if you have any questions,

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1 I'll try to answer them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one question, the
4 place name one kind of interests me, at the same time I was
5 wondering, with the place names did, like a place name up
6 by Chisana was, Two Rivers, have you included the
7 translations in that?

8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: We've been working with Jim
10 Carey, formerly of Alaska Native Language Center for
11 basically the last year and a half, and he has not only
12 compiled the names, but annotations and along with that a
13 lot of the stories that go along with those namings. You
14 just don't go out and get a name.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

17

18 MR. TWITCHELL:there's always
19 significant histories associated with the whole aspect of
20 the naming and the region and the events associated there.
21 so he's done work, building upon what other people have
22 done in the past so we're very happy with what he's done.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
25 questions for Hollis? Thank you, muchly. I have to ask
26 Devi, are you keeping up with Denali and doing just as good
27 a job as Denali is doing?

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MS. SHARP: It's difficult being the little
32 sister.

33

34 MR. VEACH: I'd say, yes, we are on a 20th
35 of the budget.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. SHARP: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and
40 Chair people. This is Devi Sharp, Wrangell-St. Elias
41 National Park. I also have just informational things,
42 nothing that needs decisions. I have been long promising a
43 cultural anthropologist and subsistence specialist, Dave
44 Crupa will be joining Wrangell-St. Elias staff. He is
45 pretty well known in Alaska. He works for the University
46 of Alaska-Fairbanks in the Oral History Department. He's
47 done some contract work for both us and Denali and some of
48 the other Parks doing the video juke box program. He's
49 interviewed a number of the elders in the Valley and I look
50 forward to having his help and being able to do some of the

1 projects that Hollis has been able to do having a cultural
2 anthropologist on the staff.

3

4 Carl Mitchell, the wildlife biologist has
5 transferred to Idaho to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6 and Carl will be sorely missed by myself and the staff.
7 There is a vacancy announcement out right now for a
8 wildlife biologist.

9

10 We have started -- or we're planning and we
11 will start the summer, some sheep research to look at some
12 basic relationships between habitat and sheep population
13 demography. Maybe we can answer the question of why the
14 sheep are so big up the Chitina River.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or the Chisto.

17

18 MS. SHARP: Yeah, right, and that will be
19 done through a graduate student out of the University of
20 Alaska-Fairbanks.

21

22 Ahtna Construction has started working on
23 the visitor's center. They started a few days ago for
24 their spring work, they hope to be completed with the
25 exterior of the building at the end of this season and we
26 hope to move in in 2002.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that will be
29 constructed exactly where?

30

31 MS. SHARP: It's on the Richardson Highway.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On one of the overlooks?

34

35 MS. SHARP: Yeah, one overlook is a gravel-
36 collecting site and the other one that's closer to town,
37 closer to Glennallen. It's the one that has a gate and
38 some orange.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

41

42 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it's between here and
45 Glennallen overlooking the Wrangells?

46

47 MS. SHARP: Right, about a tenth or two-
48 tenths of a mile towards Glennallen from the junction of
49 the Old Richardson Highway.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Will you be where you can
2 look on the Copper, too?

3
4 MS. SHARP: There's a trail.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You won't be directly over
7 the Copper?

8
9 MS. SHARP: No, we're not directly over.
10 We all look forward to moving into our new offices. We've
11 already outgrown the building.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bureaucracy does.

14
15 MS. SHARP: Our Subsistence Resource
16 Commission met last month in Gulkana. And the SRC has, for
17 awhile, requested to put in a proposal to the State to
18 change the State regulations in Unit 11 in the Preserve
19 from any sheep to three-quarter curl for State hunters,
20 that's non-subsistence hunters.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Non-subsistence hunters.

23
24 MS. SHARP: So in Unit 11 Preserve, it
25 would be that State hunters, sport or State subsistence
26 hunters could only take three-quarter curl and that any
27 sheep would be left for subsistence hunters.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With C&T in Unit 11?

30
31 MS. SHARP: Yeah. Right, with C&T....

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They wouldn't need a 1344,
34 they just would need C&T right?

35
36 MS. SHARP: If they already have -- whoever
37 -- the existing rights apply.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

40
41 MS. SHARP: If you already have C&T or if
42 you already have a 1344.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or you're a resident zone
45 community?

46
47 MS. SHARP: Right.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

1 MS. SHARP: Unit 11 is one of the very few
2 units in the state that has any sheep. And it gets used
3 pretty heavily. There's not very good access and that's
4 what protects the sheep from getting overhunted. But
5 people find a way and we would like to error on the side of
6 conservation.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've never been able to
9 figure out why, on the one place where sheep are accessible
10 by road they'd open an any sheep season.

11
12 MS. SHARP: Right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It just absolutely blows
15 me away.

16
17 MS. SHARP: To be honest I've never figured
18 it out myself.

19
20 The next Wrangell Subsistence Resource
21 Commission meeting will be sometime in late September in
22 Mentasta Lake and the date will depend upon the date that
23 Southcentral chooses, because we have figured out that it's
24 advantageous for us to be ahead of you so we can provide
25 our recommendations on proposals.

26
27 We plan to put some gravel on the trail to
28 Batzulnetas and we're responding to a request and approval
29 by the people that live at the end of it, the people from
30 -- Grandma Katie and Doris Charles and the people who use
31 the cultural camp. It's on Federal land, it's an easement
32 on Federal land. We're doing it to protect the Park.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. SHARP:because we're getting the
37 creep on the easement.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

40
41 MS. SHARP: And we will try our very vest
42 to sign it and keep it from being a public attractant.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have you thought of doing
45 like the Forest Service does and put in an all-weather wood
46 boardwalk instead of gravel because it has less impact on
47 the -- you know, on the surrounding terrain?

48
49 MS. SHARP: I don't think we want to go
50 there. I don't think we're ready to make that kind of

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1 improvement.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So you're just
4 going to -- just fill some of the holes?

5

6 MS. SHARP: We're just mitigating
7 environmental damage.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

10

11 MS. SHARP:by keeping in the existing
12 right-of-way.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

15

16 MS. SHARP: On public land, not on -- we
17 can't do that on private lands, we can't use the Federal
18 funds for private lands.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just know that if you
21 put two boards, people stay on the two boards.

22

23 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you fill it with
26 gravel, people can still walk around as the gravel gets
27 wet.

28

29 MS. SHARP: Right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know?

32

33 MS. SHARP: Right now we feel like we need
34 to take a very light approach to it because it leads to a
35 sacred site and we don't want to make it any more of an
36 attractant.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

39

40 MS. SHARP: We would like to protect the
41 land and facilitate access for culture camp.

42

43 MR. VEACH: I met mention, too, the trail
44 is used by full-sized vehicles, so it would be quite an
45 endeavor to make a boardwalk there.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

48

49 MS. SHARP: Yeah, it is.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

2

3

4 MS. SHARP: Let's see, at the Subsistence
5 Resource Commission, a resident from Slana brought up a
6 concern about someone who is trapping on the trail. And he
7 wanted to know whether we could promulgate regs --
8 regulations that would prevent people from trapping on the
9 trail in the Park and the Subsistence Resource Commission
10 said, that they would much prefer that it be solved on a
11 community basis rather than by regulations. And the
12 conflict is between someone trapping on the trail and
13 cross-country skiers and mushers and ski-jorers and I think
14 it was very good advice from our Subsistence Resource
15 Commission to try to solve it at a community level. But I
16 think the important thing is to recognize that this is just
17 the beginning of the user conflicts. As we grow as a Park
18 and as we have more visitors with expectations of doing
19 different kinds of activities, that we're going to have to
20 deal with that and we recognize that, and I think it's just
21 the beginning of that.

21

22 And Eric has some fish.....

23

24 MR. VEACH: Yeah, I just thought I'd
25 mention, real briefly, Mr. Council -- Mr. Chairman, Council
26 members, Eric Veach, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. We
27 will be operating our weir in Tanada Creek again, as was
28 mentioned earlier this morning. And one of the things that
29 we're trying to do in addition to operating the weirs, we'd
30 like to install a video-counting tower that we think that
31 we could continue to manage out of Park-based funds over
32 the long-term after FIS funding runs out. Because we see
33 that there's going to be a long-term need to continue to
34 monitor that fishery.

35

36 Another project that was funded through
37 FIS, starting this year, as Doug mentioned this morning, is
38 the steelhead harvest monitoring project in the Copper
39 River and the Park will be performing that project in
40 cooperation with CRNA, and that will be to monitor the
41 harvest of steelhead, and actually we'll monitor the
42 harvest of everything that's caught in a couple of fish
43 wheels between May 15th and May 31st, which is the extended
44 Federal season.

45

46 The Park will also be beginning a fresh
47 water fish inventory across the Park this summer and we're
48 really looking forward to that. We've got good information
49 on salmon and steelhead distribution throughout the Park,
50 but we really don't know much about the rest of the fish

1 species that occur in the Park and this will try and get a
2 handle on all the fish species.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Eric, is that information
5 all public information?

6
7 MR. VEACH: It certainly will be, yes. I
8 mean you could retrieve it immediately through a request
9 but we'll make a publication at the end that will be
10 available.

11
12 We're also working down in the Glacier Bay
13 Preserve. We have a TEK project that was funded through
14 FIS that we'll be starting this summer. And this will be
15 looking at both subsistence use of fish in the Dry Bay
16 area, but also traditional habitat management.

17
18 We've submitted a proposal to also
19 summarize the existing information, this is a proposal that
20 potentially could be funded in 2002, we just recently
21 submitted it to FIS. Essentially what this would do is it
22 would compliment the TEK proposal by summarizing all the
23 existing Western science to maybe try and understand what's
24 causing the decline of sockeye in the East River at this
25 point.

26
27 And also in Dry Bay, this year, we're
28 starting a -- it's really just a GIS project, we'll be
29 looking at four sets of aerial photos and trying to map the
30 change of the extent of the estuary in Dry Bay. We think
31 that that may have had some influence on why we've seen a
32 decline from about 250,000 fish to 20,000 sockeyes
33 returning in Dry Bay. So that's a project we're real
34 excited about.

35
36 The only other thing I had to mention is we
37 will be issuing the Batzulnetas permits out of the Slana
38 Ranger Station this summer and we'll also be issuing
39 Glennallen subdistrict subsistence fishing permits, both
40 out of the Slana office and also our Chitina Ranger
41 Station.

42
43 I think that's all I had.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have any questions
46 for Eric? I have two questions. That video counting
47 tower, is that going to be a manned tower or is that going
48 to be something that will be able to left on automatic
49 later?

1 MR. VEACH: My intent is it would be
2 something that we would check daily but that it would
3 basically function automatically. So we'll have a video
4 camera pointed out the stream, we'll have some brightly
5 colored boards across the bottom of the stream and then
6 essentially we'll count the shadows as they move upstream
7 there.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then all that has to
10 be done is the film retrieved at regular intervals?

11
12 MR. VEACH: Right. And make sure the
13 batteries are staying charged.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

16
17 MR. VEACH: And I haven't quite figured out
18 all the details but, yeah, my thought would be a person
19 could just visit that once a day and make sure it's
20 functioning, switch the tapes and it would be a lot less
21 labor-intensive than having a crew.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Put a new battery in and
24 go?

25
26 MR. VEACH: Yes, exactly, yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one other question.
29 You didn't mention, Devi.....

30
31 MS. SHARP: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and that was the
34 photo inventory that was being worked on, is that still --
35 is that project still going forward?

36
37 MS. SHARP: The historic photos?

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The historic photo
40 inventory?

41
42 MS. SHARP: Oh, yes, that's -- we hired
43 Jeff Blakley in a permanent position. He's the historian
44 who is writing an administrative history and he has a
45 passion for historic photos, so, yes, that project is still
46 going. We have a good collection of historic photos and
47 try to, each year, put aside a little bit of change to
48 build that collection and protect it properly.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has he gone out of his way

1 to get ahold of some of these older folks that basically
2 still know who's in the pictures and what the pictures were
3 about?

4
5 MS. SHARP: Yep.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because as we lose people
8 like, you know, Al Taylor, and Henry Bell and stuff like
9 that, we lose the people that know who the people in the
10 pictures are.

11
12 MS. SHARP: Jeff does visit elders. He
13 does oral interviews with people and tries to identify.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Takes as many photographs
16 as he can and says, do you know this is?

17
18 MS. SHARP: Yeah. I know that every spare
19 dime of change he gets, he personally builds his collection
20 and then donates copies to the Park.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

23
24 MS. SHARP: We're getting a great deal. We
25 have a great historian and it's a terrific resource. He's
26 working on a project, an administrative history for the
27 Park and it's really helped us recognize how decisions were
28 made and why they were made in the last 20 years. And
29 there is a big section on subsistence.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for
32 the National Park Service? Fred.

33
34 MR. ELVSAAS: On the video weir, is this
35 video going to do a count as it's going or are you going to
36 have to view the video?

37
38 MR. VEACH: Well, there's a couple
39 different types of technology out there and I'm a little
40 bit behind the curve. I'm maybe not as technologically
41 oriented as I should be and so I'm still trying to figure
42 it out. There's two options. One would essentially be
43 just a simple video camera and that would involve someone
44 playing through the tape and counting the fish.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. VEACH: But there is some technology
49 out there now to actually use digital technology and then a
50 computer would be able to essentially count the frames that

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1 had shadows of fish in them, so, which if we can afford to
2 go that route, I'd like to go that route because it would
3 cut down the labor that much more.

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, otherwise, if you run
6 24 hours of tape, is somebody going to watch it 24 hours
7 and.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You could watch it in an
10 hour.

11

12 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, okay.

13

14 MS. SHARP: Fast forward.

15

16 MR. VEACH: Yeah, I haven't had a lot of
17 experience with this sort of work but the people I've
18 talked to that have, you know, you will have big chunks of
19 time where fish aren't moving and so you can fast forward
20 through there pretty quick and then as you start to see
21 fish you can slow down and start counting again.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know if it's on
24 video cameras, I know on movie cameras you can set them so
25 it's slow photography. I mean you're not looking for a
26 smooth picture, you can set them slow enough that you're
27 getting a frame often enough that you're not missing
28 anything.

29

30 MR. VEACH: Yeah, yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We did that on Crystal
33 Growth one time and we could, you know, video 24 hours
34 worth of Crystal Growth in five minutes of film.

35

36 MR. VEACH: Oh, cool.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And not miss anything.

39

40 MR. VEACH: Oh, good deal.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, so you can do
43 something like that.

44

45 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. ELVSAAS: On one of our islands, we let
48 this team out of Homer, they've got cameras that take these
49 time photos, they had three of them, one right in the nest
50 and when you put it on and speed it up, you can see the

1 movement of the birds just like you're watching birds move.

2
3 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. ELVSAAS: Sometimes they move very
6 fast, other times they sit there for hours and nothing
7 happens.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that's a good
12 technology to develop because that will have, you know,
13 that's got real potential for some of these small
14 clearwater creeks and you could get a pretty accurate
15 count.

16
17 MR. VEACH: Uh-huh, yeah.

18
19 MS. SHARP: Yeah, we need a long-term plan
20 for monitoring that stream.

21
22 MR. ELVSAAS: One more suggestion, on this
23 thing that we have on Gull Island, it's transmitted to
24 Homer so the people.....

25
26 MR. VEACH: Oh, great.

27
28 MR. ELVSAAS:in Homer can walk in the
29 building and watch what's going on. And that may be a way
30 to transmit the video rate to your headquarters.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. VEACH: Yeah, that'd be ideal.

35
36 MS. SHARP: Dial up to Channel 13 and watch
37 Tanada Creek run.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. ELVSAAS: Get up in the morning and
42 count the fish.

43
44 MR. VEACH: Yeah, that's what I dream
45 about, that I can come in in the morning, have my cup of
46 coffee and see how many fish came through Tanada Creek the
47 night before, you know.

48
49 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not so funny because
2 it's not very far off.

3
4 MR. ELVSAAS: No. No.

5
6 MR. VEACH: Right, yeah.

7
8 MR. ELVSAAS: It will happen.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And with the new digital
11 communication system they're talking about putting in the
12 Valley, a lot of those things become very possible. So any
13 other questions for Park Service? Well, I'm glad to see
14 that you guys are actually thinking of things like that.

15
16 Okay, we have Alaska Department of Fish and
17 Game, do we have a representative here? Tom.

18
19 MR. TAUBE: Mr. Chairman, Council members.
20 My name is Tom Taube, I'm the area fisheries biologist in
21 the Glennallen area for Fish and Game Sportfish Division.
22 I provided you a summary of our 2000 subsistence season for
23 both the Chitina subdistrict and Glennallen subdistricts
24 that I -- I don't have any formal discussion here, I guess
25 I just want to make myself available for any questions you
26 may have about that summary or this upcoming fishing
27 season.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we just ask some
30 general questions?

31
32 MR. TAUBE: That'd be fine.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I haven't had a chance to
35 look at the summary yet.....

36
37 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:but on an overall
40 average basis, was this a average year, better than average
41 year, worse than average year from a subsistence
42 standpoint?

43
44 MR. TAUBE: Based upon harvest for the
45 Glennallen subdistrict it was about average. It fell
46 within the range that the Board of Fisheries has set for
47 meeting subsistence needs. The chinook harvest was the
48 highest on record. Estimate harvest was about 5,000 for
49 the Glennallen subdistrict. For the Chitina subdistrict,
50 it was again about average, right about 100,000 total

1 harvest. Chinook harvest was down due to the Board of
2 Fisheries action reducing the bag limit from four to one.
3 So we saw it down to about 3,000 fish, it was half of what
4 it had been recent years. So overall subsistence harvests
5 were -- if you're looking at just total harvest, were right
6 at about average.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the timing?

9

10 MR. TAUBE: It was late.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And was the whole thing
13 just skewed back?

14

15 MR. TAUBE: Skweed back and I think that
16 was part of the reason why we saw an increased harvest of
17 chinook, particularly in the Glennallen subdistrict because
18 those fish were late so the wheels were more prone to catch
19 chinook.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only fish there were
22 chinook.

23

24 MR. TAUBE: Correct.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has there been any
27 indication that subsistence needs weren't met? I mean have
28 you heard any?

29

30 MR. TAUBE: We haven't heard of anybody who
31 said they weren't getting fish. In fact, early on there
32 were a lot of people who were shutting down their wheels
33 because they were getting so many chinook, they didn't know
34 what to do with them. They may have been lacking in
35 sockeye, but we didn't hear any reports about that. There
36 are still people that were taking their 500 fish or, you
37 know, whatever they needed. It might have taken a couple
38 more days.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, I'll ask a real silly
41 question, was there any complaints by people who had to eat
42 kings instead of reds?

43

44 MR. TAUBE: Not that I know of.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I actually do know people
49 that do prefer reds over kings, I don't know why but I know
50 there are people who do.

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1 MR. ELVSAAS: My sister does. She doesn't
2 care for kings at all.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's like somebody that
5 doesn't eat moose meat.

6
7 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. ELVSAAS: We just laugh at her.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have any other
14 questions for Tom?

15
16 MR. TAUBE: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Tom. Thanks
19 for the report. I'll get a chance to look at that later.

20
21 MR. TAUBE: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that, we have
24 other new business. Does anybody on the Council have other
25 new business they'd like to bring forward? If not, as
26 Chair, I've got a few pieces of new business to bring
27 forward. One, I attended the Chair meeting and work
28 session and some of you were there and some of you weren't,
29 but at that Chair meeting we ended up appointing people to
30 different protocol committees and it turned out we could
31 only get one person from each Council, so all of you that
32 put your name in the hat did not get appointed. I feel
33 sorry for you that you missed the opportunity to be on a
34 protocol committee.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But, Gilbert, they
39 appointed you.

40
41 MR. DEMENTI: They did.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you have the one for
44 July management.

45
46 MR. DEMENTI: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For the rest of the
49 information, I did get appointed on the C&T committee. It
50 was a profitable meeting. We met as Chairs, we met as

00241

1 people, we learned. We learned something about each other.
2 We had an opportunity to deal with things. I thought it
3 was well worthwhile attending. To go on to one more thing,
4 I would like us, if it's possible, if it's within reason, I
5 would like us, as a Council, to -- and I don't know, maybe
6 Fred could help me with this, who we would give it to, but
7 I'd like us, as a Council, to express our regrets for the
8 loss of Fred John Sr., and our respect for him and his
9 appreciation of his work in subsistence and also for his
10 son. And would we address that to Katie, or how would we do
11 that, what would be the proper way to do it Fred?

12
13 MR. JOHN: I don't know, send it to my
14 mother.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh?

17
18 MR. JOHN: Whatever, yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Send it to your mother?

21
22 MR. JOHN: (Nods affirmatively)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if the rest of the
25 Council will go along with that, I'd like to ask Ann to
26 write us a letter like that and we can all sign it.

27
28 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because I think we owe
31 people like that respect. We all have something we could
32 learn from them, and I hope everybody did learn from him,
33 including his son.

34
35 With that, we have the time and the place
36 of the next public meeting.

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can you give us our
41 window?

42
43 MS. WILKINSON: Yep.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It looks like September
46 10th through October 19th.

47
48 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody on this

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1 Council -- oh, Ann.

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, before
4 I left the office, I was given a copy of the calendar
5 showing the dates other Councils have already selected and
6 I can just fill you in on that really quick.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

9

10 MS. WILKINSON: September 27 through 29th
11 is the YK-Delta Council. October 2nd through October 4 is
12 Western Interior. October 5 and 6, Kodiak Aleutians.
13 October 9 through 11 is Eastern Interior. And 11 and 12
14 are Bristol Bay. And we do share Staff people with the
15 Kodiak Aleutian Council and Bristol Bay Council.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if we overlap YK or
18 Western Interior or Eastern Interior, that's not critical
19 but it would better if we didn't overlap anybody?

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

24

25 MS. WILKINSON: And Eastern Interior, we
26 might want to be a little careful about because we do have
27 some overlap -- usually crossover proposals.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, this year we had it
30 fairly early, moose season was still on. In fact, the last
31 day of moose season.

32

33 MS. WILKINSON: The last day.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What's the wishes of the
36 rest of the Council? Would you prefer to do this early or
37 late? As a Chair, it works better for me late, but I will
38 work around whatever I am doing to try to be there if the
39 rest of you feel a need to be there early.

40

41 MR. ELVSAAS: The window was September 10th
42 to October what?

43

44 MS. WILKINSON: 20.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, 20th or 19th, yeah.

47

48 MR. ELVSAAS: We're sharing Staff with
49 Kodiak and Bristol Bay, that's the 5th and 6th and 11th and
50 12th; is it crowding them to be in between that? After the

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1 12th we're getting close to Native corporation meetings and
2 AFN and things of that nature.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would it hurt if we
5 overlapped Eastern Interior one day? We don't share Staff
6 with Eastern Interior.

7

8 MR. JOHN: Which one is Eastern.

9

10 MS. WILKINSON: We don't share Staff with
11 them, no.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We share.....

14

15 MR. DEMENTI: The 8th is a Federal holiday.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, the 8th is a Federal
18 holiday so that doesn't work. What if we would jump all
19 the way up to like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, then we'd overlap
20 Western Interior by one day or two days; does that cause
21 any problems?

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: Well, not to me.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not as far as anybody's
26 concerned?

27

28 MR. ELVSAAS: Which days were you saying?

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was looking at the first
31 three days in October.

32

33 MR. ELVSAAS: That would be fine for me.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That way September and all
36 of its hunting seasons and berry picking and everything is
37 over.

38

39 MR. ELVSAAS: It's good with me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's just in the middle of
42 woodcutting.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. DEMENTI: A good time.

47

48 MR. ELVSAAS: Looks good to me.

49

50 MR. JOHN: It's good.

1 MR. DEMENTI: Do we need three days or just
2 two?

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we need to plan
5 for three. I don't know how many proposals we're going to
6 have on the table. We've always planned for three in the
7 -- well, we haven't either, we planned for two this time.
8 How about if we plan for the 1st and 2nd and as the agenda
9 comes together, if we have to we can stretch it to the 3rd.

10
11 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that sound good to
14 everybody? But if we can finish by the end of the second,
15 we'll finish on the second or does that complicate things
16 for us to do it that way?

17
18 MR. DEMENTI: You mean finish it on the
19 3rd.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?

22
23 MR. DEMENTI: If we need to we finish it on
24 the 3rd.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we need to we'll finish
27 on the 3rd.

28
29 MS. WILKINSON: Well, when planning the
30 meetings, finding the meeting space, it depends a lot on
31 what the meeting space is. Some people are a lot more
32 flexible than others, so that will be dependent on.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I know a real
35 flexible space that time of the year.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Kenicott Glacier Lodge or
40 Cordova.

41
42 MS. WILKINSON: But usually the agenda, we
43 try to get that done a month, at least, a month in advance.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we could have a
46 look at the agenda to know whether we need to do it for
47 three days or two days in plenty of time, don't you?

48
49 MR. JOHN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we'll figure October
2 1st and 2nd. That would mean we would travel on a Sunday
3 and be there for Monday and Tuesday.

4
5 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that cause problems
8 for anybody?

9
10 MR. ELVSAAS: No, it doesn't for me but in
11 looking at the timing, I think extending a meeting for a
12 day is harder than shortening a meeting a day. You know,
13 if you're planning you should plan for the three, rather
14 than two.

15
16 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah. I would, as soon
17 as.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll plan for three but
20 if the agenda looks like two, she can make arrangements for
21 two.

22
23 MR. ELVSAAS: And shorten it, yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

26
27 MR. ELVSAAS: I would rather block that day
28 out than say, hey, I got a conflict here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

31
32 MR. ELVSAAS: I will have a conflict
33 anyway, my mother-in-law's birthday's on the 2nd.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. ELVSAAS: And she likes me.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I was wondering
40 what kind of conflict you were talking about.

41
42 MR. ELVSAAS: But also in planning the
43 place, after our meeting in Mentasta, which I thought was
44 great, you know, getting in the areas that we're talking
45 about, it's a great thing and I think it was well attended
46 but there was a terrible article about us in the Peninsula
47 Clarion by Les Palmer, about calling Mentasta the middle of
48 nowhere, I thought that was terrible

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's his problem.

1 MR. ELVSAAS: You know, I think it should
2 be our efforts to try to meet in the areas that we're
3 talking about, the people we're talking about so they can
4 be available -- you know, it's all too easy to meet in
5 Anchorage, but you miss the touch with the people. And
6 maybe Les Palmer likes it in Soldotna, he lives in
7 Sterling, which is the middle of nowhere.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. ELVSAAS: And, you know, it's just too
12 bad, but I hate to see things like that. He's definitely
13 against subsistence and against any Nativeness at all. So
14 with that, maybe we should go to McCarthy Glacier.

15
16 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, about Mr.
17 Palmer, I did find out that he is not a paid journalist for
18 the Peninsula Clarion. HE sends those in on his own. They
19 consider him to be a public opinion person. So he's just
20 one of the guys, you don't have to regard his opinion more
21 than someone else's.

22
23 MR. ELVSAAS: That could be but they
24 printed his articles not as public comments.

25
26 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. ELVSAAS: They printed his news
29 articles because we've taken them to task before on our
30 problems.

31
32 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You don't have to pay any
35 more attention to -- even if he was working for the paper,
36 I mean the paper has no more authority than if he was just
37 a private individual.

38
39 MS. WILKINSON: Right. And I'm just saying
40 he is one person speaking.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, I mean that's
43 his opinion.

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, any suggestions.
48 Like I said, you know a place where you've got great
49 flexibility at that time of the year because they're not
50 very full, that would be either Cordova, which has airplane

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1 access, with a regular airplane or -- let's see, we're in
2 this area, we haven't been in the Kenai area for awhile
3 other than all of those hearings that we had down there.
4 Devi.

5

6 MS. SHARP: How about Cantwell.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Boy, that's true we
9 haven't been to Cantwell.

10

11 MR. DEMENTI: We've got the accommodations.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You've got the
14 accommodations. Now, that's really in the middle of
15 nowhere, that's up by Denali Park.

16

17 MR. JOHN: Yeah, let's have it at Cantwell.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's have it at Cantwell
20 then. If that's agreeable with the rest of the Council,
21 that's sure agreeable with me. That time of the year it
22 shouldn't have snow yet, should it.

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: We should be able to have a
25 moose dinner by that time, the season's over.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It should just be aged
28 perfectly. Maybe we ought to make a ruling that all
29 Council members have to bring some kind of good food, fish,
30 meat or berries so we can sit at the table and eat and
31 watch everybody else watch us. Okay, Cantwell, if at all
32 possible.

33

34 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

35

36 MR. JOHN: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 1st, 2nd and 3rd of
39 October.

40

41 MR. ELVSAAS: And I hope it don't snow.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And hope it doesn't snow
44 and if we run into any problems, we got plenty of lead time
45 on it.

46

47 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I don't see, Cantwell,
50 of all places, shouldn't have any problems. There should

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1 be facilities in that area.

2

3 MR. ELVSAAS: If the road's shut down we
4 can go on the railroad.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I was going to say,
7 if not, I'm sure they have facilities on Denali Park. They
8 must have some kind of visitor's cabin stuck out there.

9

10 MR. JOHN: They got good facilities up at
11 Cantwell.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They do?

14

15 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, that takes care of
18 time and place of next public meeting. Unless somebody
19 else has something further to put on this agenda or if I
20 forgot something that Ann remembers, in the back of my mind
21 I feel like I forgot something.

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: Not in the back of my mind.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. In that case, a
26 motion for adjournment is in order.

27

28 MR. JOHN: So moved.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved, do I hear
31 a second?

32

33 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second. It's been moved
36 and seconded. All in favor signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Meeting
41 is adjourned. We'll see you in Cantwell on October 1st.

42

43 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

44

45 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:
10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 140 through 248 contain
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL
13 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, taken
14 electronically by David Burrows on the 21th day of March 2001,
15 beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at Copper Center,
16 Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;
22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.
25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of April 2001.
27
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04